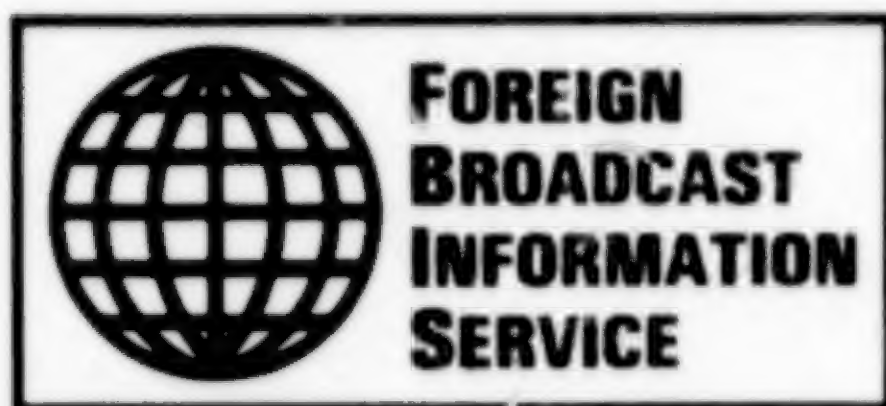




Daily Report

East Asia

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9 March 1992

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Japan

Envoy to U.S. Seeks Removal of Mental Barriers

OW0903075792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0655 GMT
9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—New Japanese Ambassador to the United States Takakazu Kuriyama called Monday for the swift dismantling of "psychological barriers" between the two countries to end mutual recrimination and bashing.

"There is an urgent need to dismantle the psychological barriers which exist in the minds of the two peoples," he said. "They are hard to remove because they are very often caused by ignorance and prejudice."

In a speech at a luncheon meeting of the America-Japan Society, Kuriyama suggested that Japanese and Americans recognize their differences and make changes where necessary.

"We must start from the premise that Japan and America are two uniquely different countries, even though we share common free and democratic political and economic systems," he said, adding they have forged close relations since World War II despite these differences.

"Both Japan and America are very dynamic societies capable of changing a great deal in a relatively short period of time," said Kuriyama, who is succeeding Ryohei Murata as ambassador to Washington.

His comment came against the backdrop of remarks by Japanese and American politicians on an alleged lack of a work ethic and a high level of illiteracy in the U.S., and a joke about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Kuriyama is a veteran diplomat who served in New York and Washington for many years and was ambassador to Malaysia in 1985 and vice foreign minister in 1989.

He said the intractable trade imbalance between the two countries is "only a symptom" of their more fundamental structural problems.

"Artificial attempts to reduce the imbalance can only lead to protectionism and managed trade," Kuriyama warned.

On Kuriyama's appointment, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, who is president of the America-Japan Society, described him as "the fittest man in the fittest place."

Kuriyama said the Japan-U.S. relationship is going through "a crucial testing period."

"Some people call me pro-America. I would be rather called pro-Japan-U.S.," he said at the luncheon meeting attended by some 200 people at a Tokyo hotel.

Stern Action Planned Against U.S Rice Display

OW0903101992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0959 GMT
9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries warned Monday it would take stern action against a U.S. plan to display rice at a food show to be held in Tokyo in April.

Vice Agriculture Minister Yoshihiro Hamaguchi issued the warning shortly after Washington disclosed the plan to display rice at the Great American Food Show to be held April 14-16.

James V. Parker, minister-counsellor for agricultural affairs at the U.S. Embassy, disclosed the plan at a news conference Monday and said the embassy will consult the Agriculture Ministry on the matter.

Parker told Japanese reporters the U.S. plan is based on commercial purposes aimed at developing knowledge of U.S. products among the Japanese people.

A political row developed between Japan and the United States last year when Washington displayed U.S. rice at a food show in Chiba Prefecture east of Tokyo in defying a Japanese warning.

The United States withdrew rice from the exhibition only after Japan issued a stern warning.

Hamaguchi told reporters that rules under Japan's Staple Food Control Law should be observed strictly.

Parker, responding to questions from reporters, said the embassy would consider whether prior approval of the Japanese Government is necessary to exhibit rice at the fair.

He emphasized that the U.S. plan is not aimed at exerting pressure on Japan to open its rice market to imports.

Lithuanian Leader Landsbergis, Watanabe Meet

OW0703030692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0254 GMT
7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—Lithuania's Supreme Council President Vytautas Landsbergis and Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe agreed Saturday to promote exchanges in various aspects between the two countries, Foreign Ministry officials said.

In a breakfast meeting with Watanabe at a Tokyo hotel, Landsbergis proposed that Lithuania take lessons from Japan's education system and expand cultural exchanges with Japan. Landsbergis told Watanabe he hopes for Japan's investment in the Baltic state, which became independent from the former Soviet Union last year.

Watanabe offered to invite a high-level Lithuanian delegation soon as part of Japan's efforts to promote technological assistance to Lithuania, the officials said.

Landsbergis, here on a six-day visit since Wednesday, is scheduled to visit the ancient city of Kamakura in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo on Sunday before leaving for home Monday.

IMF Membership for Ex-Soviet Republics Viewed

OW0903044592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT
9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus predicted Monday that at least some of former Soviet republics would be admitted to the IMF by June, Foreign Ministry officials said. Officials said the prediction came in a breakfast meeting between Camdessus and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Camdessus arrived in Japan on Sunday on a four-day visit, the first to Japan by an IMF managing director since December 1987.

Camdessus told Watanabe that the processing of applications from the former Soviet nations is proceeding at an unprecedented pace and is likely to be concluded within the first half of the year. IMF executives have recently been reported as saying that Russia and at least half a dozen other former Soviet republics are likely to join the IMF at a meeting in Washington on April 27 of the group's interim committee.

THE NEW YORK TIMES recently reported the former Soviet republics would probably take a stake of around 4.5 percent of the IMF's current capital, or about 5 billion dollars of the 120 billion dollar total, and that Russia alone would supply about 2.5 percent. Member countries can qualify for financial aid from the 156-member IMF equal to three to four times their capital stake. The Soviet Union became an associate member last year, making it eligible for technical but not financial assistance.

Watanabe told Camdessus that Japan wants to see a normalization of relations between the IMF and Vietnam. As part of preparations to unfreeze full-scale economic assistance to that country, Tokyo is engaging in negotiations with Hanoi over repayment of the debt incurred by the former South Vietnamese government.

Officials have said that a resolution of Vietnam's problems with the IMF, involving arrears of over 100 million dollars, is also considered an important factor in reopening Japanese assistance. The United States has been asking Japan to delay such a move, but Vietnam's IMF entry would signal U.S. acquiescence, the officials said.

Watanabe was also quoted as soliciting IMF participation in an international convention Japan plans to host in June on reconstruction of Cambodia. Camdessus pledged the IMF's cooperation and welcomed Japan's initiative, officials said.

The IMF would not make light of Asia in deciding on the extension of financial assistance, the officials quoted Camdessus as saying.

They said Watanabe had urged the IMF to keep Asian needs in mind while increasing its aid to central and eastern Europe.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in a meeting later with Camdessus, urged him to prod the United States to finalize domestic procedures that would enable the 156-member IMF to boost its financial resources by 50 percent, a Finance Ministry official said.

If approved, Japan would jump from the fifth largest capital provider to the second alongside Germany.

Britain currently holds the No. 2 position.

In the half-hour meeting, Camdessus told Miyazawa that economic reforms in Russia will not be easy, but he predicted eventual success at developing the resource-rich country.

The IMF head said he believes that economies of other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be spurred once the Russian economy takes off.

Possible Fund Shortage Discussed

OW0903122092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT
9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Michael Camdessus on Monday said former Soviet republics will soon be allowed to join the institution but warned of a possible fund shortage.

Camdessus, IMF managing director, said Russia and 14 other former Soviet republics will likely obtain full IMF membership "before the end of the spring, possibly in May."

It is widely expected that the IMF will approve full membership for the republics at its interim committee meeting slated for late April.

Camdessus, speaking at the Japan National Press Club, also said he was concerned about the delay of the ninth quota increase for the international lending organization.

Prospects of an early endorsement of the quota increase have dimmed because of the delay in approval by the U.S. Congress.

"I'm seriously concerned about the fact the Congress of the United States has not ratified yet the ninth quota increase," Camdessus said.

He suggested the holdup could cause a serious fund shortage for the IMF, thereby hampering its economic assistance to the former Soviet republics.

"For the time being, we are not out of money," said Camdessus, but "at the end of this year, we could be very short."

IMF's quota increase requires over 85 percent of the total voting rights of the member countries.

The U.S. has 19 percent of the voting rights, so any quota increase needs the approval of the United States.

The IMF had originally expected to put the quota increase into effect at the end of 1991, but the U.S. Congress has so far failed to ratify the increase.

The ninth quota increase would boost the IMF's capital to 136.7 billion SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) from the current 91.2 billion SDRs. One SDR is about 1.4 U.S. dollars.

There is growing concern that U.S. ratification could be further delayed as discussions in Congress are increasingly focusing on domestic issues as the presidential election draws near.

It had been anticipated that President George Bush would submit the bills for the quota increase to Congress at the end of March, but this is no longer clear since the prospects for the bills passing Congress are believed to be slim.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, in separate meetings with Camdessus on Monday, called for an early realization of the quota increase.

Camdessus told Hata that the quota hike is a vital issue due to the expected surge in capital demand from the former Soviet republics.

The tardiness of the U.S. Congress in ratifying the IMF quota increase is casting a shadow over the lending organization's capability to provide assistance to the former Soviet republics, which Camdessus predicted will formally be agreed around the middle of 1992.

Camdessus said he expects an agreement between the IMF and the republics over economic programs for these countries to receive IMF assistance to come "sometime before the summer."

The IMF chief, in a meeting with Hata, also said Japan does not need any further stimulus to its economy, an official of the Finance Ministry said.

Pointing to the high capacity utilization rates and the tight labor market in Japan, Camdessus reportedly said too great a stimulus could ignite inflation.

Camdessus said Japanese economic conditions are quite good, and praised the fiscal 1992 draft budget and the government's recent five-point package of measures to shore up the economy, which includes an earlier implementation of public works projects, according to the official.

Hata and Camdessus also agreed to strengthen policy coordination among the Group of Seven industrialized nations, the official said.

Watanabe Hints at Measures for 'Comfort Women'

C.V0903055192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Monday that Japan may take some kind of measures for "comfort women" who were conscripted into military brothels for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Watanabe said he thinks it is appropriate for the government to express "visibly" that Japan is sorry for the "comfort women." He was responding to questions raised by Social Democratic Party member Hideko Ito at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

The foreign minister added that the government should make a "political decision" when outlines of the issue, such as the approximate number of women involved, are revealed in a planned government report. He did not elaborate, however, on the measures that might be taken, saying the government has to consult informally with countries such as South Korea.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women and girls, mainly from Korea, but also from China, Taiwan, and the Philippines, are believed to have been forced into prostitution in military brothels for front-line Japanese soldiers. Japan long denied there was any official involvement in the practice until a private researcher in January turned up documents at the Defense Agency archives showing the army's involvement.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged efforts to seek the facts about the practice in response to a demand by South Korean President No Tae-u at their talks in Seoul in January. Government sources said in Tokyo on Sunday that the government will issue an official report on the matter in April.

SRV Mission Urges Increased Investments

OW0903102492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Nagoya, March 9 KYODO—An economic mission from Ho Chi Minh City appealed to Japan for increased investment in the city at a seminar here on Monday.

The seven-member delegation led by Vice-Mayor Pham Chanh Truc cited several projects for which the city is seeking foreign investment.

Truc told the gathering of about 100 entrepreneurs in Aichi Prefecture that the city has several investment projects and hopes Japanese enterprises will actively participate in them.

Nguyen Ba, director of the Department of Post, Telephone and Telecommunications in the city, said his office is trying to expand and improve the communications network.

The seminar was organized by the Nagoya-based Tokai Bank to help promote trade and investment between Japan and Vietnam.

Miyazawa: By-Election Important for Leadership

OW0703141792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1350 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Sendai, March 7 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Saturday a by-election here Sunday for a House of Councillors seat is important for him to carry out political reform and shore up the sluggish Japanese economy.

Campaigning for candidate Nobuo Onodera of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Miyazawa said, "This is an important election for myself."

After winning the election, he said, "I want to implement political reform and pump-priming measures, contribute to the international community, and realize a 'lifestyle superpower'."

At a news conference, Miyazawa said he trusts Bank of Japan Governor (BOJ) Yasushi Mieno's judgment on the state of the economy.

"Governor Mieno will study the BOJ 'tankan' [short-term observation] after his return" Wednesday from abroad, the premier said, referring to the Central Bank Quarterly Report released Friday that showed a further deterioration of domestic economic conditions.

Meanwhile, LDP [words indistinct] Chairman Koko Sato said in a speech in Hakodate, Hokkaido, the BOJ will lower the official discount rate from the current 4.5 percent this month.

"Because it's the last month of the fiscal year, there will be a reduction of the official discount rate within this month," he said, adding pressure on the central bank to cut the benchmark lending rate by 0.5 percentage point to buoy the economy.

Mieno has resisted the pressure so far for fear of causing another "bubble" economy.

Miyazawa traveled to Sendai despite concern among some local LDP supporters his appearance might alienate voters because of scandals involving several of his close confidants and other politicians.

He told reporters any credible political reform program has to contain a reduction in the 512 seats of the powerful House of Representatives.

Miyazawa said his ruling party will make a decision on urgent political reform measures by mid-March and bring them to opposition parties for consideration.

On legislation to send Japanese military personnel abroad to take part in international peacekeeping operations, the premier said, "Failure (to pass the bill) will inevitably limit Japan's personnel contributions" to United Nations' efforts in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe hinted in testimony before the lower house Budget Committee the government may be ready to modify the legislation in response to requests from some opposition parties for changes to the bill.

LDP Candidate Loses Miyagi By-Election

OW0803151092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1455 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Sendai, March 8 KYODO—A ruling party candidate narrowly lost a closely watched by-election for a House of Councillors seat Sunday, dealing Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa the second of two electoral body blows in a month and threatening his four-month-old cabinet, rocked by twin money scandals.

In the seesaw returns of one of the closest national-level Japanese elections in recent memory, opposition candidate Koki Hagino received 396,171 votes, with 99 percent of the ballots counted.

Nobuo Onodera of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party garnered 393,298, and Hisashi Tsujihata of the Japanese Communist Party was a distant third with 67,111.

Miyazawa's ruling party also lost a February 9 by-election in Nara Prefecture for an upper house seat.

The two by-elections were widely seen as an important prelude to nationwide House of Councillors elections in July.

Hagino's victory was the second for Rengo-no-kai, the political arm of the Japan Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), the Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

The opposition coalition also scored a stunning victory in the Nara election by capitalizing on the money scandals involving several former and present close allies of Miyazawa, as well as other ruling party lawmakers.

In one of the scandals, Fumio Abe, former secretary general of the Miyazawa faction within the governing party, has been indicted on charges of accepting bribes from Kyowa Co., a now defunct steel-frame producer and land developer.

An unspecified number of politicians are also suspected of involvement in another major scandal, concerning the Sagawa Kyubin parcel delivery group with ties to Japanese crime syndicates.

Miyazawa, conceding defeat, said in a statement his party waged an "excellent fight" in the Miyagi race to fill the upper house seat vacated by the death of Kasuo Kurimura of the Social Democratic Party.

The premier put his own prestige on the line with a last-minute appearance here Saturday, despite protests from local LDP supporters who said his presence would backfire in Miyagi, one of the nation's leading rice-growing prefectures.

Rice farmers in such areas, traditional LDP backers, are calling on the government to maintain Japan's ban on rice imports despite mounting international pressure on Tokyo to convert the ban to tariffs to bring the stalled Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion.

Miyazawa sought to woo voters Saturday by promising to overhaul the nation's electoral system and hinting at a reduction in the official discount rate from the current 4.5 percent per year.

Sunday's voter turnout was 52.39 percent, far lower than the 61.19 percent recorded in the 1989 House of Councillors elections.

Hagino's come-from-behind victory—reversing Onodera's apparent lead of just over a thousand votes at one point—boosted Rengo's strength in the 252-member House of Councillors to 13.

The LDP has 113 seats, the Social Democratic Party 72, Komeito 20, the communist party 14, and the Democratic Socialist Party 10. Four seats are held by a minor party, four by independents, and there are two vacancies.

Loss Called 'Humiliating Defeat'

OW0803161892 Tokyo KYODO in English
1605 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Sendai, March 8 KYODO—Overshadowing national polls in July, an opposition candidate dealt a humiliating defeat to the ruling party Sunday in a crucial by-election widely viewed as a gauge of public wrath over a spate of election-funding scandals.

Coalition-backed Koki Hagino, of the Rengo-no-kai, the political arm of Japan's largest trade union, eked out a victory in the Miyagi Prefecture election over Nobuo Onodera, 66, for a vacant House of Councillors seat.

Though the margin of victory in the seesaw race was less than 1 percent, the result will further undermine the prestige of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's four-month-old administration already in disarray over the scandals and another defeat last month in a by-election in Nara, political analysts said.

Hagino, 51, who campaigned on an anticorruption platform, was declared victor with 396,532 votes to Onodera's 393,615. Japanese Communist Party candidate Hisashi Tsujihata was a distant third with 67,378 votes. Hagino is top adviser to the president of Tohoku College of Social Welfare.

"I have believed voters in this prefecture would hand down a sound judgment," a tousle-haired Hagino told

reporters at his campaign office shortly after his victory was announced by the prefectural electoral board.

Hagino, fielded by the 7.6 million-member Japan Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), campaigned with the joint backing of the Social Democratic Party (SDP)—the biggest opposition group—the Democratic Socialist Party, the United Social Democratic Party, and the Shinpoto group.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana told a Tokyo news conference that Hagino's victory "mirrored public distrust with the Liberal Democratic Party, saddled with corruption and money-dominated politics, evidenced by the Kyowa and other scandals."

In the Kyowa cash-for-favors scandal, Miyazawa's chief fund-raiser, Fumio Abe, has been indicted on charges of accepting 90 million in bribes from Kyowa Co., a now-defunct steel-frame maker and land developer, in exchange for his influence when he was a cabinet minister in charge of regional development.

Opposition parties have repeatedly challenged Miyazawa over suspicions that Abe funneled some of the cash he secured from the scandal-ridden firm to the premier's LDP presidential race as handouts to curry favors with LDP politicians of other factions.

Abe has admitted receiving some money from Kyowa, but said it was not a bribe. The LDP presidency carries with it the prime ministership, as the party commands a stable majority in the powerful House of Representatives.

LDP Secretary General Tamiyuki Watanuki told a news conference, "We will take this result seriously and do our utmost to revive public trust in our politics."

"We deeply regret our failure to take back the seat (lost by the ruling party in the 1989 House of Councillors election)," Watanuki said.

The by-election was called to fill a vacancy left by the death of legislator Kazuo Kurimura, who grabbed the seat in the 1989 national election, in which the LDP lost its upper house majority due to voter discontent over the Recruit influence-buying scandal and a recently introduced value-added tax.

Miyazawa put his prestige on the line in Sunday's balloting by rushing to the northern prefecture on the final day of campaigning despite intra-party pleas that he remain out of sight.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe told a news conference, "even after Miyazawa came to Miyagi, voters handed down a negative judgment (on the LDP). This means that the LDP's politics is alienating the public."

Although foreign calls for greater access to Japan's protected rice market came under voter scrutiny in the

campaign, all three candidates campaigned on the anti-market-opening platform, making it impossible for voters to show their judgment on that issue.

Miyazawa issued a statement in an apparent attempt at damage control, saying "our camp fought an excellent fight under strict circumstances... I would like to secure victories in upcoming (elections) on the basis of this momentum (shown at the Miyagi fight)."

Miyazawa Apologizes for Setback

*OW0903093892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Influential Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Shin Kanemaru called Monday for party unity following Sunday's by-election defeat, an indication he still supports Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, party officials said.

The LDP vice president stressed the importance of unity at a meeting of senior government and ruling party officials in the wake of the opposition's slim upper house by-election victory in Miyagi Prefecture over the weekend.

Miyazawa also spoke at the session and apologized for the election setback.

Kanemaru, who was instrumental in propelling Miyazawa to power last fall, told the session that the party should not blame the defeat on any single individual.

"There is no one who can replace Prime Minister Miyazawa at this moment. (The LDP) has no spare time to discuss a change of power," Kanemaru was quoted as saying.

Kanemaru encouraged party members to focus on parliamentary business and prepare for the coming elections, the officials said.

LDP Secretary General Tamiyuki Watanuki echoed Kanemaru's sentiments, saying the party must do everything possible to win the lower house by-election in Gunma Prefecture on March 29 and the upper house poll in Ibaraki Prefecture on April 12.

Miyazawa Reacts Further to Defeat

*OW0903042992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa vowed Monday to forge ahead with political reforms and efforts to revitalize the sluggish economy following a narrow defeat of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) candidate in a Miyagi by-election Sunday.

In addition, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe acknowledged to a Diet committee that voter disillusionment with politicians because of new political scandals contributed to the loss.

"We must listen carefully to what the voters are saying and adapt a posture that will prevent repetition" of the defeat, Watanabe said.

Koki Hagino, who was running under the flag of Rengo-Kai, the political arm of Japan's largest trade union, edged out Nobuo Onodera by less than 3,000 votes to clinch a vacant seat in the House of Councillors. Nearly three-quarters of the voters who responded to a poll before the vote said they would take the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. loan scandal and a bribery case involving a close Miyazawa aide into consideration when they filled out their ballots.

Noting that the seat had previously been occupied by a member of the opposition Social Democratic Party, Watanabe said the defeat would not have a direct impact on Miyazawa's hold on power.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference that the close race was "encouraging" for the LDP, which suffered a major defeat just a month ago in western Japan. He cited Japan's policies toward the multilateral trade talks known as the Uruguay Round as another area of concern for voters in the northern Japan prefecture.

"As Miyagi Prefecture is a rice-growing area, I think voting behavior reflected the strong interest in the Uruguay Round," Kato said.

Sensitive to farmer opposition to liberalizing the rice market, the government last week omitted rice from a proposal on a tariff-reduction plan submitted to the general agreement on tariffs and trade.

The election was widely seen in Tokyo as a weather vane for the House of Councillors elections coming in July.

Political Colleague Comments

*OW0903080592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Despite Sunday's by-election defeat for the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is certain to stay in power at least through the House of Councillors elections in July, a political colleague of his said Monday.

"It is more difficult than you think to deprive the incumbent prime minister from his seat," Takujiro Hamada told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondent's Club, dismissing speculation Miyazawa could be ousted because of his declining popularity in the wake of a spate of scandals.

Following an LDP candidate's defeat in the by-election Sunday in Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan, some political analysts have said Miyazawa's days are numbered.

Hamada said Miyazawa is likely to continue as head of government even if the LDP suffers a limited defeat in the upper house elections.

Hamada is a member of Miyazawa's faction, the LDP's second largest power bloc.

Hamada said the loss of some LDP seats in the upper house elections would be "natural," but did not say why.

The extent of the defeat would determine whether Miyazawa would continue to hold the reins of government, he said.

On other topics, Hamada, a former parliamentary vice foreign minister, said it is wrong to think all of Asia is scared Japan may return to its prewar militaristic state.

"The idea that all Asian nations have some paranoid fear of a resurgence of Japanese militarism has become a worn-out and false assumption. Only (South) Korea and China seem to feel strongly about this," he said.

Hamada cited the encouragement received from many Asian countries over Japan's decision to dispatch mine-sweepers to help clear explosives after the Persian Gulf war as evidence of support for Japan's "active and positive role."

Japan contributed 11 billion dollars to the U.S.-led multilateral forces that ousted Iraqi troops from Kuwait last year, but efforts to send personnel were killed by strong domestic opposition.

Hamada said public opinion has been changing rapidly and Japan would some day be able to send armed military personnel to serve in United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Japan's parliament has twice failed to pass proposed legislation to send troops abroad since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. The second proposal on U.N. peace-keeping operations, cleared by the House of Representatives last year, is currently pending at the House of Councillors.

Bill To Exclude Banks From Brokerage Services

OW0703072392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0634 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 KYODO—A financial system reform bill to be submitted to the current debates at the Diet does not authorize banks to offer brokerage services through their subsidiaries, government officials said Saturday.

The legislative change in the securities and exchange law follows two different final reports last year by advisory bodies on financial reforms to the finance minister.

Both the Securities and Exchange Council and the Financial System Research Committee called for implementation in April 1993 of new measures which might allow the separate financial institutions to enter each other's business.

Under the current legislation, expressed in Article 65, the banking and securities industries are strictly separated.

The new bill says licences should be granted to banks and other new entrants into the securities business through their more-than-50-percent-owned subsidiaries in line with recommendations by the two advisory bodies.

But Article 21 in an appendix of the bill prohibits banks' securities subsidiaries to execute brokerage business, limiting banks' entries to the primary, or stock issuing, market for the time being.

It says the finance minister is requested to use legislative or other means so that banks are not authorized to offer securities brokerage services, that is the secondary market, according to the officials.

"The secondary market, in which the share of big securities companies are declining, is less needed for new entrants than the primary market, controlled by the "Big Four," an official at the Finance Ministry said.

North Korea

Nuclear Committee Delegates Hold News Conference

SK0603162592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The fifth inter-Korean contact of delegates was held in the South side's portion of Panmunjom today to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

The contact was held behind closed doors.

At the end of the contact, the delegates of the North side gave a news briefing on the course of the contact.

Choe U-chin, our side's delegate, held a press conference and talked about the status of the contact.

According to it, the sides arranged the text of a draft agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Mentioning the working-level discussion, the South side proposed that different opinions on Article Four be readjusted before anything else, thus they did not discuss the draft agreement from the beginning.

Our side suggested that the delegates of the two sides should make sincere efforts and initial the text at today's contact, saying that in the past, the two sides solved more complex problems than the issue of the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Our side put forward again some compromising proposals for progress in the discussion.

Our side agreed to the South side's proposal for defining the number of the members of the joint committee as seven in Paragraph 1, Article One.

Our side said that as the South side was reluctant to accept Paragraph 8, Article Two on the international guarantee of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, our side was ready to consider it, respecting the South side's argument that if this paragraph is considered, it would be easy to clinch other paragraphs.

But, the South side began to lay hurdles, asking our side to put forward only compromising proposals.

Charging that the South side's act is an act unprecedented in the history of inter-Korean talks and out of common sense, our side said it was ready to accept the South side's proposal for discussing Article Four before anything else and asked it to put forward its compromising proposals. But, the South side failed to put forward its own proposals.

With a view to completing the coordination of views and the arrangement of the text and initialing it at today's contact at any cost, our side broad-mindedly proposed to call the document agreed document or document of agreement in Paragraph 1, Article Two because the South side declined to accept the term—adoption of agreement. To this compromising proposal, the South side proposed to call it supplementary document, not agreed document or document of agreement.

Our side accepted the South side's opinion and agreed to the wording the matter of adopting and dealing with a supplementary document according to the debate on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and other allied issues.

In the discussion of Paragraphs 2 and 4, Article Two, the South side doggedly opposed mentioning foreign nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

The South side, unable to persist in their argument against our side's logical demand and persuasion, agreed to specifically stipulate the words nuclear facilities and nuclear materials and to write clearly nuclear weapons and nuclear bases within parentheses, which they claimed to be suspect.

The sides went over to discuss Article Four.

The South side insisted on stipulating in the text the time limit of the adoption of the rules of the procedures and methods of nuclear inspection, although the right to discuss it is in the hands of the joint committee.

Refuting the argument of the South side that the time limit should be made a precondition for the adoption of the rules of the procedures and methods of nuclear inspection, our side asked the South side if it would agree

to our side's proposal for stipulating that the U.S. troops should be withdrawn from South Korea within one month and the armed forces of the North and the South be reduced below the level of 100,000 men within one year at the Military Subcommittee which would discuss a phased disarmament.

Saying that it could never agree to that, the South side arrogantly ascribed its proposal to urgency and uttered words slandering and provoking the North.

In connection with this, our side, referring to the word—urgency—which the Americans use, added that the South side should make efforts to resolve the issue with its own strength.

Our side asked the South side if it planned to work out the rules of nuclear inspection in cooperation with the Americans, and charged that the South side was dancing to the tune of the United States which is trying to justify the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea under a new pretext of nuclear threat from the North because the old pretext of threat from the North for the U.S. troops' occupation was removed after the North and the South adopted an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange.

Our side pointed out that since the time limit which the South side seeks is as unnecessary as a wen, it should be removed.

Our side proposed to shelve the discussion of Article 4 for the time being and enter into the discussion of Article 5, since the sides are widely divided over the former article.

Thus the discussion of Article 5 began.

The South side, however, strongly objected to our side's opinions—it is stipulated that Article Five of the important document should be signed by both side's premiers and a procedure is needed to validate it. The South side claimed that Article 4 be discussed again.

Our side asked the South side if it was willing to form the Nuclear Control Joint Committee by March 18, or not. Recalling that the joint declaration on denuclearisation was ratified by the top persons in authority of both sides, our side stated that, accordingly, the agreement on the composition and operation of the Nuclear Control Joint Committee cannot be finally ratified by the premiers.

Our side strongly urged the South side to try to finalize the draft agreement within today.

The South side, however, avoided an agreement, though it said it wanted to form and operate the joint committee quickly.

Our side proposed to refer Articles Four and Five to the Nuclear Control Joint Committee to be composed soon for its deliberation, as no agreement could be reached on them between the sides now.

The South side even talked the jargon that time would be wasted if it were referred to the joint committee which is like a marionette.

Our side sternly took the South side to task for its irresponsible utterances ignoring the functions and capacity of the joint committee to be formed, lacking confidence in one's own strength. It asked the South side did it not approach the Americans with the request to jointly work out the rules of inspection, because it did not trust fellow countrymen.

Avoiding answer to this, the South side uttered words off the point that the nuclear problem was an international problem, a problem concerning peace of Northeast Asia.

Our side asked the South side how could it ignore our proposal for denuclearisation for over thirty years, if it wanted peace of Northeast Asia, the peace of the Korean peninsula. The South side openly claimed that the nuclear weapons brought into South Korea by the United States were a war deterrent, thus justifying the deployment of more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

This meant to admit at the official meeting that the South side did not hesitate to destroy the 70 million fellow countrymen in league with the United States, if it was for anti-communist unification, unification by prevailing over communism and to formally admit the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Our side took the South side to account, hitting hard at its treacherous and provocative remarks.

Our side put forward the reasonable proposal again to form the Nuclear Control Joint Committee before March 18 and let it discuss the pending issues, since an agreement has been reached on the fundamental problems for the formation and operation of the joint committee or to initial the points of agreement reached so far between the sides at the contacts and exchange its texts after having it signed by premiers and getting it through necessary procedures of effectuation and thus from the joint committee and let it discuss the unsettled issues.

The South side, however, proposed that a delegates' contact be again held on Monday or Tuesday next week, and rejected our side's proposal. Our side again urged the South side to form a Joint Nuclear Control Committee before 18 March stating that if the South side delays the issue which can be certainly resolved amid the entire nation's attention, it will be denounced. The South side, however, was unreasonable, stating that this is as good as a handicap and will waste time.

Our side made it clear once again that since both sides agreed upon the possibility of forming the joint committee, in other words, upon the basic matters of its formation, functions and operation, it was now possible to adopt and initial an agreement, and asked the South side whether it is ready to fix the date of the first meeting

of the joint committee or not and whether it is good to announce that the South side avoided the formation of the joint committee.

But, the South side did not give any answer to the questions and ridiculously proposed to make trial inspection at least.

Our side refuted this, proposing to make an overall inspection, not trial inspection on one or two objects.

Our side said that even though the South side puts forward the so-called mutual principle and the principle of equity, this does not stand to reason. Our side said that in order for our people to eliminate their doubts concerning the South side, an overall inspection should be conducted.

The adjustment of views and arrangement of the text could not be completed at the contact today due to the unreasonable assertions of the South side.

The South side said that it will only need one hour to settle everything in the next meeting. Our side assumed this as an intention to rearrange its position, our side agreed to hold the next contact on 10 March.

It was agreed to hold the next contact on March 10.

Reactions to Alleged Secret Arsenals in ROK

Inspection Demanded

SK0903065592 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
0537 GMT 9 Mar 92

[“U.S. and South Korean Authorities Must Open To Public Positions of Secret Nuclear Arsenals and Respond to Overall Inspection of Them”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA) - The United States and the South Korean authorities must open to public the positions of secret nuclear arsenals in South Korea without delay and respond to an overall inspection of them including the U.S. Forces' nuclear weapons and bases as demanded by us, not resorting to an ostrich policy of “trial inspection”, says a NODONG SINMUN analyst today.

Recalling that Chong Chu-yong, former honorary president of the Hyundai business group in South Korea and now executive chairman of the national party, exposed on March 5 that the group built a nuclear arsenal of U.S. troops present in South Korea, the news analyst says:

The existence of a U.S. secret nuclear arsenal in South Korea was confirmed personally by the very one who was in charge of its construction. Thus, the U.S. imperialists who have turned South Korea into a nuclear forward base and the South Korean authorities who leave the country's territory to be used as nuclear arsenal of the former can no longer conceal their anti-national and anti-peace criminal deed. The point is not confined to it.

Its graveness lies in the fact that there are secret nuclear arsenals in South Korea.

It is outrageous of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to take issue with us and make quite a scene about "nuclear threat" while hiding their nuclear weapons in secret nuclear arsenals. It is a brigandish act like a thief crying "stop thief!".

The nuclear threat existing on the Korean peninsula comes not from the North which has no nuclear arms but from South Korea where the U.S. Forces are stationed and many U.S. secret nuclear arsenals have been built.

Dangerous gambles aimed at a nuclear war against the North are being staged ceaselessly in South Korea even at the moment.

Since the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation and Nonaggression and Joint declaration on Denuclearisation were adopted and put into effect, there is no ground for the United States to keep its troops, nuclear weapons and nuclear base in South Korea and the United States must take steps to immediately withdraw and dismantle them from South Korea and pull its troops out of there. If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities persistently seek a nuclear war going against the desire of the nation and the trend of the times, they will bump into condemnations and rejection by our nation and the world's peaceloving people.

Reunification Committee Statement

*SK0703124392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1124 GMT 7 Mar 92*

["CPRF Urges U.S. To Open to Public Positions of Secret Nuclear Arsenals in South Korea and Accept Overall Inspection of Them"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 7 (KCNA)—We strongly hold that if the United States and the South Korean authorities have the willingness to dispel at home and abroad the suspicion that there may be U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea and to realise denuclearization in South Korea, they must open to the public the positions of the already built secret nuclear arsenals without delay and accept an overall inspection of them.

This is stressed in a statement issued today by the spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) as it has been brought to light that a secret nuclear arsenal of the U.S. Forces was built in South Korea.

The statement says:

It has been brought to light that a secret nuclear arsenal of the U.S. Forces was built in South Korea. This is arousing a serious public apprehension at home and abroad.

As was reported, Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Business Group, in his lecture in Seoul

on March 5 disclosed the fact that the Hyundai Business Group undertook a top secret project of digging a tunnel in a mountain to stockpile atomic bombs of the U.S. Forces and he oversaw the project on the spot.

As the truth was proved by the person who undertook the project of building a secret nuclear arsenal of the United States in South Korea, the grave fact that there is a U.S. nuclear arsenal in South Korea has been known to the world.

It is universally known fact that the United States stepped up the conversion of South Korea into a nuclear base in real earnest from the 1970s.

It is recorded in the 1985 minutes of the South Korean "National Assembly" that 1,720 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons of various types are deployed in South Korea. Experts said the density of nuclear weapon deployment in South Korea is four times that in the NATO area.

Despite this stark fact, the United States and the South Korean rulers have concealed the truth under the so-called NCND (neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons) policy.

When voices demanding the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea were lifted and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was debated in real earnest, the chief executive of South Korea abruptly published a "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" at the end of last year. However, this has not yet dispelled the suspicion of the world people.

His "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" has become all the more incredible as the top secret information about the building of a secret underground nuclear arsenal and its existence in South Korea were opened to the public this time.

No matter how loud the South Korean authorities advertise the absence of nuclear weapons, they can no longer deny the fact that there may still be U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea.

Accordingly, the "trial inspection" on a few objects brought forward by the South Korean authorities has become meaningless.

Now it is clear why the South Korean authorities took issue with the North over the fiction of "nuclear development" by the North, openly argued on this pretext that the agreement cannot be implemented, and moreover, cried for "sanctions" against us even after the effectuation of the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was announced.

It was because they keep U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea that they raised a hue and cry over "nuclear problem" of the North like a thief crying "stop thief." And for that very reason, they insisted on "trial inspection" of a few objects and doggedly opposed an overall inspection of the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases of

the U.S. Forces in South Korea at the North-South contact to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South nuclear control joint committee.

Since it has been made clear that there is a nuclear arsenal of the United States in South Korea, the nuclear inspection between the North and the South must not be confined to "trial inspection" on a few objects, but there should be an overall inspection on all objects including the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, as demanded by our side.

It reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief" that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities groundlessly slander the North and cry for "nuclear inspection" on the North while they are keeping U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in secret nuclear arsenals.

The chief executive of South Korea allowed the United States to build its secret nuclear arsenals in South Korea and stockpile there U.S. nuclear weapons designed to exterminate the fellow countrymen. This is a never-to-be-condoned most towering anti-national crime.

If the South Korean authorities keep the U.S. nuclear weapons hidden and pursue confrontation and war under their patronage while paying lip service to "absence of nuclear weapons" and "denuclearization," they will be unable to escape strong denunciation and punishment by the nation.

U.S. Blamed for Slowing North-South Cooperation

*SK0803044892 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0024 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[NODONG SINMUN 8 March commentary: "The United States Should Stop Kicking Up a Nuclear Commotion"]

[Text] South Korean authorities, while babbling about a nuclear threat from the North or inspection delay, have recently decided to set a precondition for realizing the North-South agreement that nothing can be done unless the nuclear issue is resolved. They have acted irresponsibly.

The person with the highest authority in South Korea came to the forefront to kick up a commotion concerning the nuclear threat and spoke plainly last 3 March that he would not put the agreement into practice unless the nuclear issue is resolved.

This shows that although they have signed the agreement, those in power in South Korea are about to delay its implementation and, going one step farther, give it up completely.

Was it of their own will that the persons in authority in South Korea did this? No.

Without question, it is the work of the dark hands of the United States. The United States found the opening of a

road to peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula through the implementation of the North-South agreement unwelcome.

In the so-called testimony at a recent U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, publicly threatened us while he spread the theory of the nonexistent threat of southward invasion. He stated that the United States will keep its troops stationed in South Korea.

This is indeed a sophistry that ignores the changing realities on the Korean peninsula that advance toward peace and reunification. They are absurd remarks by a bellicose element in a mad pursuit of confrontation and war.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney earlier stated in an annual defense report to the U.S. Congress that although South and North Korea have recently adopted an agreement on nonaggression and reconciliation, the North's plan for developing nuclear weapons is the greatest danger facing peace in the region. He has used this as an excuse and has babbled that he will reinforce U.S. forces deployment in South Korea and has shelved the plan for U.S. troop withdrawal stationed in South Korea.

Douglas Paal, senior assistant to the White House National Security Council in charge of Asian Affairs, met the persons in authority in South Korea one after another after arriving in Seoul and publicly complained that unless the North's nuclear issue is resolved, it is not desirable to promote South-North economic cooperation.

Facts graphically show that the sudden shift in the attitude of the persons in authority in South Korea after signing the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration with us is the work of U.S. pressure and behind-the-scenes control.

When the North and South adopted the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange and the joint declaration on denuclearization, the United States said that it welcomed it.

Why did the United States, which portrays itself as welcoming the agreement, have the heads of the Defense and State Departments kick up a commotion concerning a nuclear threat and apply the brakes to the implementation of the North-South agreement at a time when the historic agreement documents have been declared effective and the question of implementing them is being placed on the calendar?

The United States did so because it did not welcome on the calendar the inclusion of the U.S. troop withdrawal from South Korea in relation to the implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration. In other words, it is a brazen-faced ruse

designed to cook up a justification for keeping U.S. troops stationed in South Korea without their withdrawal.

The United States has justified in the past the stationing of U.S. troops in South Korea under the pretext of southward invasion. Now that the North and South have agreed on nonaggression and are willing to realize peaceful reunification, it runs counter to common sense and is unreasonable for U.S. troops to insist on remaining in South Korea because of the threat of southward invasion. They can no longer convince anyone.

Under this situation, the United States created the nuclear threat commotion associating it with us.

The unchanged U.S. policy is to turn South Korea into a nuclear base after occupying it and use it as a stepping stone to conquer all of Korea and to realize its wild ambitions to dominate the world.

To this end, the United States has deployed about 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea and together with the South Korean authorities, the United States has gone as far as already designing a war scenario aimed at turning the Korean peninsula into an ignition point of thermal nuclear war. In addition, it has constantly conducted large-scale nuclear war exercises, simulating northward invasion.

It is needless to say that if the U.S. troops withdraw from South Korea, this U.S. policy will open a crack. The nuclear threat commotion is a new threat of southward invasion which has been worked out and bellowed by United States and then parroted by the South Korean authorities in response to the U.S. shouting in order to maintain the U.S. troop occupation of South Korea at any cost.

Although the United States noisily babbles about our nuclear threat, in reality it is indeed a shameless act by the United States and a false charge. Who is directly responsible for the nuclear threat prevailing throughout the world? It is none other than the United States.

It was none other than the United States that plunged mankind into a tragic nuclear catastrophe by dropping nuclear weapons in the past; it is none other than the United States that has the largest number of nuclear weapons at its disposal; and it is also none other than the United States that really creates the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula.

The person in the highest authority in South Korea has declared the absence of nuclear weapons, but this has failed to free us from our concern of whether the United States has withdrawn its nuclear weapons, which it introduced, and whether it has removed its nuclear bases.

As revealed in the recent North-South delegation contact, the South Korean authorities are going to exclude U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from inspection,

while at the same time babbling about nuclear inspection. This only augments our doubts.

The United States has no justification to noisily talk about threat or inspection in reference to us, who have neither the intention nor the ability to produce nuclear weapons. We also do not need or in practice possess nuclear weapons.

Moreover, to speak of international nuclear inspection, it is a question that is smoothly under discussion between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Therefore, it is not something in which the United States should meddle, saying this and that about it.

The United States infuriates our people with such an act. The fact that the United States has occupied South Korea until now for nearly half a century and has forced our nation to suffer the tragedy of division alone are unpardonable criminal acts.

The U.S. policy of aggression, policy of power are products of the cold war age and today these policies convince no one.

The United States should respect the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration whereby the North and South declared their intention to realize peace in the country and reunification on the strength of the nation through mutual reconciliation and unity. It should decide to remove and dismantle its nuclear weapons and bases, and withdraw its troops from South Korea.

The times have changed. The United States should clearly know that keeping the anachronistic policy of power in place will not profit itself.

The South Korean authorities should no longer commit treasonous acts of harming the nation, while succumbing to U.S. pressure and forming an illicit and intimate connection with outside forces. They should take the road of realizing peace and reunification based on the strength of the nation, trusting their fellow countrymen and uniting with them.

U.S. Using 'Slander' To Delay Withdrawal

*SK0703051492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Pyongyang March 7 (KCNA)—The malicious slander and unwarrantable pressure of the U.S. imperialists on the DPRK are getting all the more wanton.

The commander of the U.S. forces present in South Korea, Riscassi, at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on March 4 cried over "imminent development of nuclear weapons" by the DPRK, shouting himself hoarse that it "must not be given time" and "a tougher step of next stage" would be taken and the chief researcher of the Brookings Institute in the United States told a hearing of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives that

"even the use of military power through a U.N. resolution should be considered", according to a report of the South Korean "Radio No. 1".

Lilley, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, who flew into South Korea on the same day, prattled that the second-phase withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea would be postponed till the North discontinues "nuclear development."

The spate of utterances of the U.S. authorities which aggravate the situation on purpose show that they dislike detente on the Korean peninsula.

Facts also show that the United States does not want a smooth settlement of the nuclear problem in Korea and is, on the contrary, putting the brake on it.

By artificially reversing the trend of the times, the United States is trying to legalise the continued occupation of South Korea by its forces, keep South Korea as a forward base for its "global strategy" and, furthermore, frustrate North-South contact and dialogue. This is an indiscreet act.

The United States must know that its wildcat act will have a negative effect on the on-going solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula and be mindful that it will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising from this.

Paper Says U.S. Must Stop 'Smear Campaign'

SK0903104192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 9 Mar 92

[**"Nothing Can Be Gained From Unreasonable Pressure"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—The commander-in-chief of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, the undersecretary of defense and other U.S. authorities recently alleged that the DPRK's "plan of nuclear development" poses "threat" to peace in the Pacific and that "tougher measures of next stage" should be taken against it.

Commenting on this anti-DPRK campaign, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

We have declared more than once that we have neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons. Anti-nuke is a consistent position of the DPRK. This fact is known worldwide.

We have already signed the safeguards accord under the Non-Proliferation Treaty with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), decided to submit it to the third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly for deliberation and announced that when it is ratified, we would immediately take working measures to accept an inspection of the IAEA.

While ignoring this stark reality, the United States continues putting unreasonable pressure upon us. This is because it is pursuing a very sinister purpose.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to find a pretext to perpetuate the U.S. troops' occupation of South Korea and use their strength. That is why the United States faked up the fiction of "nuclear development" of the DPRK and is tenaciously spreading this false rumour to convince the world of it.

Unreasonable pressure is by no means a solution to the problem. It will never bring any good result.

The United States must immediately stop the anti-DPRK smear campaign.

Claims of Threat Said Farfetched

SK0803092192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0828 GMT 8 Mar 92

[**"The United States Must Stop 'Nuclear' Racket"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney in his recent "annual defense report" said the "plan of U.S. troop pullout from South Korea" has been "shelved," blaring that the North's "nuclear arms development program" is the "biggest factor" that jeopardizes peace in this region. And Douglas Paal, director for Asian affairs of the National Security Council of the White House, raved in Seoul that "it is undesirable to promote South-North economic cooperation" without a solution of the "nuclear problem" of the North.

Commenting on this, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The United States has launched a campaign of "nuclear threat" through bosses of the Pentagon and so on, putting a spoke in the wheel of the implementation of provisions of the North-South agreement. This is a trite trick to find an excuse to keep its forces in South Korea.

Their "campaign" is a reenactment of the outcries over "threat from the North" which the United States invented and raised and which the South Korean authorities quickly joined.

Loudmouthed as they are about "nuclear threat" from the North, it is a disgraceful deed and, virtually, a farfetched argument on the part of the United States.

It is the United States that used nuclear weapons to inflict untold nuclear disasters upon mankind. It is the United States that has the largest number of nuclear weapons in the world and it is also it that is creating a nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula, concretely speaking.

Although the South Korean chief executive announced a "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons," it is still doubtful whether the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases have been withdrawn or not. As is shown

in the recent inter-Korean contact of delegates, the South Korean authorities tried to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from the objects of inspection while claiming "nuclear inspection." This added to our suspicion.

The United States cannot be justified in talking about "threat" and "inspection" of us who have neither intention nor capacity nor need to make nuclear arms and have no nuclear arms in actuality.

As far as the international nuclear inspection is concerned, it is a matter whose solution is being promoted satisfactorily between us and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The United States is not entitled to meddle or act an instructor in it.

The United States must respect the North-South agreement through which the two parts of Korea declared that they would solve the question of peace and reunification of the country by the efforts of the nation itself through reconciliation and unity and the joint declaration on denuclearization and take a bold decision to withdraw its nuclear weapons and dismantle its nuclear bases in South Korea and pull its troops out of there.

The United States must clearly realize that its persistent anachronistic policy of strength would bring no good to itself.

The South Korean authorities must refrain from treacherous acts of working in league with outside forces against the nation, bowing to the U.S. pressure, and take the road of trusting and pooling efforts with the fellow countrymen and thus achieving peace and reunification by the efforts of the nation itself.

'Unjust' Pressure Alleged

*SK0803090892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0857 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[**"Despicable Anti-DPRK Campaign"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—Lilley, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, reportedly flew into South Korea to assure them that the U.S. Forces would not be withdrawn from South Korea. Talking about some "nuclear inspection promise," he went the length of claiming "sanctions" against the North. He also urged that the United States and South Korea should take "a joint step to check the nuclear arms program" of the North.

This is an act designed to keep the U.S. Forces in South Korea and goad them onto anti-DPRK campaign over the fictitious "nuclear development," an analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says, and goes on:

Vociferating about somebody's "latent aggressive" threat and "nuclear arms program," Lilley described the U.S. military bases and imperialist aggressor troops present in South Korea and the rest of Asia as needed for

"security" in this region. This is nothing but a petty trick to justify their policy of "strength" here.

What should not be overlooked is that Lilley brought forward the "nuclear inspection" problem again, claiming that "sanctions should be imposed and joint steps taken" to check the "nuclear development program" of the North. This is an open challenge to our people who are making strenuous efforts for peace, peaceful reunification and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The unjust U.S. pressure on us can never be tolerated.

No one shall be permitted to try to perpetuate the U.S. Forces' occupation of South Korea on the plea of "threat of invasion" and put pressure upon our republic over the fake "nuclear development."

Paper Urges Disarmament To Insure Peace

*SK0803085692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0837 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[**"Disarmament Is Important Demand of Peace"**—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must show all their sincerity in realising disarmament to guarantee nonaggression and ensure peace, NODONG SINMUN says in a by-lined article today, and continues:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his talk to the members of the delegations of both sides to the inter-Korean high-level talks "Let the North and the South Open the Way for the Peace and Reunification of the Country in a United Effort" defined disarmament as a reliable way for nonaggression and a crucial matter in taking practical steps to ensure peace. This is, indeed, a highly important guideline for defusing the acute military tension and opening a decisive phase for peace and peaceful reunification.

It is an outstanding matter in taking practical steps for peace of the country that the North and the South put an end to arms race and realise disarmament.

In calling for disarmament, we mean that huge armed forces of both sides, the main factor of endangering and disturbing peace, should be reduced to the level incapable of attacking the other side. This is the most reliable way of guaranteeing nonaggression.

Disarmament will make it possible to totally remove the apprehensions for the threat from the South and the "threat from the North", honestly implement all provisions of the agreement such as reconciliation, cooperation and exchange and facilitate national reunification.

Once the North and the South promised nonaggression, they should not hesitate in realising disarmament.

But the South Korean authorities are actually objecting to steps for disarmament, crying for "confidence first, disarmament next". This cannot be interpreted as a sincere attitude for providing a practical guarantee of nonaggression. Lurking behind this is a sinister intention to persistently pursue the policy of confrontation and war.

The fellow countrymen of the North and the South find no reason to stand in confrontation with each other militarily.

If the North and the South continue arms race and confrontation, remaining divided, it is also contrary to the universal trend toward independence and peace.

Solarz Remarks on Nuclear Issue Criticized

*SK0903072692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0526 GMT 9 Mar 92*

["Arrogant and Impudent Act"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Negotiations and agreement regarding the nuclear inspection problem are making a smooth progress between the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

At this moment, some American politicians are acting foolishly to mislead world opinion, spreading unfounded rumour about the DPRK's implementation of the nuclear safeguards accord.

Among them is Solarz, member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He contended that it must be confirmed whether North Korea is going to "promote its nuclear program in secret" or not, after allowing the inspection of the IAEA to avoid the pressure of the world public and a measure must be taken as regards this. He cried that the United States must "apply to North Korea the lesson it learned in Iraq" when North Korea fails to solve the nuclear problem "satisfactorily."

His remarks were shameless words intended to distort fact and force his will upon the other by strength. They lash the people into fury.

We are compelled to avail ourselves of this opportunity to give some detailed accounts of the behavior of Solarz. While staying in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from December 17 to 19 last year, he agreed to our principled argument that the nuclear inspection problem must be solved fairly. But now he is even crying for the "need of the use of armed forces" against our country.

When he was visiting our country, he acted arrogantly and impudently from the position of big powerism and would not see the problem fairly, captive to a partisan stand, bigoted view and political ambition. Solarz, truth to tell, visited Pyongyang urged by his political desire to score points and distinguish himself by intervening in and coordinating the problem of our nuclear inspection

which posed as a complicated problem in the international arena before the presidential election slated this year in the United States.

He behaved arrogantly from the position of big-powerism in our country and, back home, challenged the independent stand of our republic, distorting fact. This shows his political and moral meanness in seeking to gratify his political desire at the sacrifice of the DPRK-U.S. relations.

We could not have dialogue in good faith with the reckless and unreliable partner or open-heartedly explain to him our principled stand. In the course of his dialogue with us, he revealed on the whole that he is a political illiterate lacking political ability and diplomatic knowledge to correctly understand and judge the point in question. Therefore, we had a direct contact with the U.S. authorities and held DPRK-U.S. talks, excluding Solarz who lacked the quality of a politician and with whom we could not have a dialogue in good faith.

The progress of the DPRK-U.S. relations toward a solution reflect the trend and demand of the times. However hard Solarz may try to reverse this trend, things will not go as he wishes.

The anachronistic mode of thinking of Solarz bent on spoiling the bright prospect for the settlement of the nuclear problem opened with much efforts and aggravating the tension deserves denunciation and criticism by world people.

Even though the like of Solarz talks trash we do not give up what we should do or do what we should not. It is a consistent stand of our Republic to convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

We have neither the capacity nor the intention to develop nuclear weapons. Moreover, it is quite unthinkable for us to develop nuclear weapons which might exterminate the fellow countrymen.

Our republic which has already signed the nuclear safeguards accord will ratify and effectuate it at the earliest possible date and then accept inspection with dignity at a time agreed upon with the IAEA.

We will never tolerate such acts as Solarz did in bringing unilateral pressure upon us contrary to impartiality and equity of the international community or interfering in our internal affairs and insulting the sovereignty of our country and the dignity of our nation.

Construction, Building Materials Industry Expanding

*SK0703154692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1521 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Pyongyang March 7 (KCNA)—Industrial and city construction of vast scale is being dynamically pushed ahead in Pyongyang, Sariwon, Sunchon, Chongjin and other places of the country.

Korea meets with home products the need for various kinds of building materials in this grand construction.

Building materials industry has made allround development in reliance upon home materials and fuel.

Many existing cement factories such as the February 8 cement complex and the Chonnaeri cement complex have been rebuilt and expanded while modern cement production bases were built in Suncheon and Sangwon areas.

And over 200 minor cement factories have cropped up in various places of the country.

Production has grown sharply with the significant increase of the production capacity and introduction of automation and telemechanics into production processes.

Modern calcium silicate brickyards made their appearance in Anju, Hamhung, Pihyon and other areas and aluminum sash and large-size prefab production bases in Pyongyang to supply sufficient building materials to the construction sites.

There have appeared in all parts of the country production bases of sheet glass, plastic, metal and chemical building materials, sanitary ceramic ware, tiles, lighting apparatuses, etc.

To fully satisfy the growing demand for building materials, Korea is hastening the construction of the Pyongyang soot separation factory and other building materials production bases.

South Korea

Editorial Views U.S. Assessment of Nuclear Issue

SK0903143992 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 8 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The United States Threatens 'Peaceful Coexistence' on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] Some U.S. military officials testified at congressional hearings for the past 10 days. They made many unusual remarks that merit our attention. Budget deliberations for fiscal year 1993, which will start this October, are now under way in the U.S. Congress. Because the defense budget is the focus of deliberations, defense and military authorities are raising their voices to the extreme at House or Senate hearings. This is an annual event. Still, we cannot but pay attention when the defense secretary, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commander of the U.S. forces in Korea, and other U.S. defense and military officials assess the nuclear issue and other causes for instability on the Korean peninsula or express their military and strategic will to counter North Korea's provocations.

In particular, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said at 4 March House Armed Services Committee hearings that if North Korea launches an invasion, the

United States will "drive it out," not merely defending the ROK, to prevent it from launching provocations again. This is a counterstrategy that reminds us of Iraq, which was almost crushed during the Gulf war. This strategy calls for, in a word, attacking North Korea's central part in a concentrated manner to nip war provocations in the bud. Grounds for this counterstrategy is mentioned in the annual defense report, which the defense secretary presented to Congress as data for budget deliberations. In that report, the defense secretary stressed that the Korean peninsula still remains the most dangerous area of dispute in Asia despite the adoption and effectuation of the "North-South agreement" and that North Korea's nuclear weapons development program is the most important factor threatening peace in this region. The commander of the U.S. forces in Korea, too, said at the 4 March Senate Armed Services Committee hearings that North Korea will be able to produce nuclear material this year and possess nuclear devices next year at the earliest. In this way, he stressed that North Korea's nuclear development, which "threatens peace," is imminent. This is similar to the prediction made by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency director at last month's House Foreign Affairs Committee hearings. He said that it would take several months or one to two years for North Korea to acquire nuclear material and build nuclear weapons.

Noteworthy in these predictions and countermeasures is that the assessment of the Korean peninsula situation has not changed, even though the cold war atmosphere has almost disappeared in the international community and even though, affected by this development, North and South Korea are making enormous efforts to establish new cooperative relations. Therefore, the Korean peninsula section in the seven secret war scenarios says that the United States would bring North Korea under its control within 90 days in case North Korea, which is launching "peace offensives against South Korea," launches all-out provocations. In the meantime, the Defense Department recently mapped out these scenarios on the assumption that it would become involved in areas of dispute.

We do not agree with the assessment and predictions of the U.S. defense and military authorities. After assessing circumstances both at home and abroad, North and South Korea have had sincere negotiations to establish mutually beneficial relations of coexistence and have built a basis for this. They are now on the point of finding ways for reciprocal cooperation and are discussing ways to reduce military tension and make peace. Also, the North and South formed Political, Military, and Exchange and Cooperation Subcommittees, and a Political Subcommittee meeting will take place tomorrow. Under these circumstances, the tough remarks by defense authorities at the U.S. Congressional hearings are pouring cold water on the North and South, which have been probing ways to ease political and military tension on the Korean peninsula.

We cannot help worrying that the accumulated U.S. pressures have led South Korea to suspend economic cooperation with North Korea. We again urge North and South Korea to ponder and pool their wisdom to ensure that this situation, which has been caused by the nuclear issue, does not harden overall North-South relations in the wake of the effectuation of the North-South agreement.

More Reports on DPRK Relations, Nuclear Issue

Suspension of Trade Considered

SK0703013692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0113 GMT
7 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 7 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to study the possibility of completely suspending government-level economic cooperation and private trade with North Korea until the nuclear issue is resolved between the South and North.

The government is also considering reducing or temporarily halting inter-Korean trade through third countries, sources at the Economic Planning Board (EPB) and in other ministries said Saturday.

The sources said practical discussions on inter-Korean economic cooperation had become difficult since the government had excluded Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su from the South Korean delegation to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

By removing Han from the delegation, the government intends to send a signal to North Korea that it cannot expect any economic cooperation from the South unless and until the nuclear issue is resolved, the sources said.

Han had played the responsible role on inter-Korean economic matters. His North Korean counterpart at the conferences was Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs.

As a result, the government is expected to suspend the proposed joint venture in Nampo, North Korea, agreed upon between Daewoo Group chairman Kim U-chung and North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon.

The government will also put on hold all the other business plans under negotiation, including direct trade, joint investment and joint development of natural resources, the sources said.

The government will, however, inaugurate the South-North Korean economic exchange and cooperation committee by May 18 since its establishment was contained in the basic agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and exchanges and cooperation signed on Dec. 13.

Nevertheless, the committee would not be able to function properly and any form of economic cooperation would be difficult before the South and the North resolved the nuclear questions, the sources said.

In the meantime, the government will allow trade with North Korea through third countries for the time being. But if negotiations on the nuclear issue fail to make any progress, it will reduce the volume of the trade or halt it temporarily.

Inter-Korean trade via third countries has been increasing since 1988 with South Korea purchasing 166 million U.S. dollars of goods from North Korea and exporting 26 million dollars worth to North Korea in 1991.

Editorial Urges More Information

SK0703013092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Cloud on Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] North Korea's adamant stalling of the IAEA inspection of its nuclear facilities continues to be one of the most critical international issues these days. Testifying before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Gen. Robert RisCassi, commander of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command, stated North Korea would be able to produce a nuclear bomb by as early as 1993 and to develop a complete system of nuclear weaponry by 1994.

Now suspicion is mounting that North Korea is deliberately dragging its feet on outside inspection to gain time to produce and stockpile enough plutonium to build nuclear weapons.

Gen. RisCassi, who is one of the best qualified persons to evaluate the situation, expressed deep concern that North Korea might be moving important equipment and materials to secluded places, apparently to hide from future international inspection.

The imminence of North Korea's production of nuclear arms is considered the most destabilizing factor on the Korean peninsula, if not the whole of Northeast Asia. And the United States and South Korean Governments have reaffirmed their intention to deal strictly with the North Korean nuclear program cooperatively.

While Gen. RisCassi was visiting Washington, James Lilley, U.S. assistant secretary of the defense for security assistance, made a three-day visit to Seoul to double check the two nations' previous agreement and discuss what to do if North Korea delays further the required international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Obviously, if anything unfortunate happens, North Korea's nuclear target will be none other than South Korea. But in this regard, the public has not been given any government position on the subject other than the accord signed by the two Korean governments agreeing to maintain the peninsula as a nuclear-free zone.

Diplomatic pressure and continuing dialogue asking North Korea to become more trustworthy are things we

can do easily, but what countermeasures and strategic reaction to deter or destroy North Korea's dangerous scheme can we employ?

The game of nuclear warfare is one thing we cannot afford to lose. Unless we are adequately prepared, we are going to be tragic victims. Do we have any independent program? Or are we completely dependent on the U.S. nuclear umbrella? Who are the ones doing detailed policy studies? The public has the right to know more about the issue with the continuing threat of North Korea's nuclear weapons production.

S-N Subcommittee Meet in Panmunjom

*SK0903061492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0500 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Text] This morning the North and South of Korea held the first meeting of the political subcommittee of the high-level talks in our side's House of Peace at Panmunjom. They discussed implementation measures for North-South reconciliation.

At the meeting, both sides made keynote speeches.

In his speech, Yi Tong-pok, special assistant to the prime minister and chairman of our side's committee, put forward three principles to the North side. These principles are: The North and the South should honor the other side's political system and judicial order for North-South reconciliation; important issues should be resolved by the relevant parties; and the two sides should abide by the principle of mutual benefit.

Our side proposed that based on these principles, the issue on implementing each article, including respecting the other side's political system and noninterference in the other side's domestic affairs, should be discussed. Our side also proposed formation of the North-South joint legal committee for legal endorsement of each article.

We proposed that the North-South liaison office—the executive organization of the agreements—be established in the other side's area, respectively. This proposal stipulates that the North-South liaison office will be headed by a vice minister or assistant minister-level official and its main mission is to handle communications and discussions between the North and the South. This office also will install and operate a direct North-South telephone line and will offer conveniences for those visiting the other side's area and for contact between the two sides.

Our side also proposed that a meeting room for separated families and a mail exchanging room be attached to this office and a regular weekly meeting be held between the office heads of the two sides.

While presenting such draft agreements, Chairman Yi Tong-pok stressed that unless the nuclear inspection issue is resolved, genuine reconciliation and cooperation

can hardly be expected between the North and the South. He thus called on the North side to accept the nuclear inspection at an early date.

Following Chairman Yi's keynote speech, Paek Nam-chun, chairman of the North side's committee, also made a keynote speech. However, the North side requested that his speech not be revealed to the public, so the details are unknown.

The two sides agreed to hold a second contact in Tongilgak at Panmunjom on 27 March to continue discussions.

Sides Announce Proposals

*SK0903090192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Panmunjom, March 9 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea held the first meeting of the Political Subcommittee on Monday to discuss ways to implement the inter-Korean accord on reconciliation that took effect last month.

The meeting was adjourned, however, without dealing even with procedural matters. They decided to convene the second meeting here at the truce village on March 27.

At Monday's meeting, the Southern side proposed to adopt and carry out item by item from Article One of the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation reached in Seoul Dec. 13.

South Korea also proposed to discuss a plan to establish a liaison office at Panmunjom and put it into effect at the seventh round of the prime minister's talks, scheduled to be held in Seoul on May 5.

Against the Southern proposal, North Korea insisted that the two sides adopt and carry out measures spelled out in the reconciliation accord and the liaison office plan together with problems related to the operation of the Political Subcommittee, all as one item.

In the opening statement, chief South Korean delegate Yi Tong-pok proposed that both sides stop slandering the head of state, any particular personality or the system of government of the other side.

Yi also proposed to form a South-North Korea joint legal committee in order to help solve legal and systematic differences in their execution of measures spelled out in the reconciliation accord.

In addition, the chief South Korean delegate urged North Korea to carry out an early realization of meetings of separated families and set up offices for personnel exchanges and postal and package exchanges. Other South Korean proposals included the establishment of telephone lines for official contacts.

North Korea, on the other hand, demanded to adopt a supplementary agreement and stipulate in it two provisions which the two sides already agreed to take out from

the reconciliation agreement. They are elimination of legal and systematic barriers and cancellation or modification of any agreement with foreign countries deemed harmful to the Korean people.

Regarding the formation and operation of a liaison office, North Korea proposed the body handle only exchanges of letters, things of government and political party officials, organizations and political party functionaries.

North Korea also proposed to form another political subcommittee for handling overseas exchanges.

Japan Shares ROK Stance on DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK0803011392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 8 Mar 92 pp 2, 9

[Interview with Kenichi Yanagi, Japanese Ambassador to Korea, by staff reporter Kim Hye-won on 7 March in Seoul]

[Text] Japanese Ambassador to Korea Kenichi Yanagi charged that North Korea seeks to divert international attention from its own nuclear development program by raising the specter of Japan's nuclear weapons capability.

It is "incomprehensible" to him why the North raised the issue when no countries in the world have suspicion on that matter.

But it is totally up to the South Korean Government to accept the North Korean proposal for inter-Korean cooperation in jointly coping with the problems of Japan's wartime enlistment of Korean girls as "comfort girls" for Japanese soldiers during World War II and Japan's nuclear capability, he observed.

The Japanese Government will treat the South and North Korean victims the same, he said in an interview with THE KOREA HERALD yesterday. "Our basic stance on North Koreans on this matter is the same as that on South Koreans."

The Seoul Government already rejected the North's proposal put forward at the sixth round of inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang last month, seeing it as a ploy to lessen international pressure on the northern nuclear program.

Amb. Yanagi was generally optimistic about relations between South Korea and Japan despite increasing reports on "uncomfortable" relations. "You will agree our relations have been improving. They are definitely better compared to relations five or 10 years ago."

He, however, refused to commit himself to opening the Japanese market wider to Korean goods. Korea currently suffers an ever-increasing trade deficit with Japan. Yanagi said, "The major cause of the trade imbalance is the difference of economic structures between our two countries."

"It is well-known that one major problem behind the trade imbalance in the present Korean economy is the recent decline of its competitiveness in the global market," he claimed.

The ambassador denied press reports that he would soon leave Seoul, replaced by Tochio Goto, ambassador to the Philippines. "I have not been informed of anything about it."

Following is a summary of the questions and answers of the interview with Amb. Yanagi. He has served in Korea since April 1990.

[Kim Hye-won] Would you like to review your service here?

[Kenichi Yanagi] I strongly feel that the agreement on building a forward-looking relationship between our two countries was truly a turning point in the history of our postwar relations. For years now Japan and Korea have been said to have "close yet distant" relations. Even so, the era when the Japan-Korea relationship was of importance only to those two countries has clearly come to an end.

I believe Korea-Japan relations will become better in the long run. They are definitely better compared to those five or 10 years ago. It is true that the relations have undergone ups and downs. There were also problems and friction. I believe if relations between any two countries become closer, issues and frictions tend to increase. The important thing is how we handle them.

We should face the problems and speak to each other for mutual understanding. By and large, you will agree that our relations have been improving.

[Kim] How do you see the prospect for inter-Korean relations?

[Kenichi] It is true that progress in the South-North prime minister's talks have been very slow until recently. But the recent signing of the historic accords—one on reconciliation and nonaggression and the other on denuclearization—has given us long-awaited hope for new development in the dialogue between the two Koreas. The greatest concern for all of us at the moment is whether or not North Korea will genuinely give up its nuclear development program.

We are genuinely desirous of seeing the reunified Korea at an early date, but, at the same time, we realize that the question of inter-Korean relations are primarily to be dealt with by the parties directly concerned, that is, South and North Korea, so we have been trying to help create, from the sidelines, an environment favorable to promoting the South-North dialogue, and will continue to do so.

For example, in the normalization talks between Japan and North Korea, we have urged Pyongyang time and

again to take a serious and forward-looking attitude in the South-North dialogue so as to achieve substantive results.

[Kim] North Korea proposed that the two Koreas form a task force to jointly handle the comfort girls issue and the possibility of your government's development of nuclear weapons. What is Tokyo's position?

[Kenichi] Prime Minister Miyazawa apologized on this issue when he visited here. Our basic stance to North Koreans on this matter is the same to South Koreans. There is no question about whether we will treat them the same. But how to respond to this proposal is up to Seoul.

Japanese nuclear facilities are all subject to international inspection. There is no doubt and no suspicion by any members of world community on the fact.

North Korea is the only country to question this. It is incomprehensible for me why they are raising this issue. Perhaps they might wish to divert the attention of the world from their own suspicious nuclear development movement.

[Kim] What is your view on Koreans' concerns about the yawning trade imbalance between the two countries?

[Kenichi] We also realize that something will have to be done to improve the trade imbalance. At the same time, as you are well aware, we have to accept the realities that the major cause of this trade imbalance is the difference in economic structures between our two countries and that this is, by the nature of things, not the matter to be solved easily within a short period of time. It is well known that one major problem behind the trade imbalance in the present Korean economy is the recent decline of its competitiveness in the global market.

[Kim] When do you expect Pyongyang-Tokyo relations to be normalized?

[Kenichi] What I think is important is not the timing but the manner in which it is realized.

We have kept pressing North Korea, during the successive rounds of normalization talks, not only for the prompt and unconditional signing of the IAEA's [International Atomic Energy Agency's] nuclear safeguards treaty but also for prompt and unconditional implementation of the treaty as well, telling them that all nuclear-related facilities including those for reprocessing, if any, must be opened for inspection.

Without a resolution of this problem, normal relations with the North will be hard to be established.

Nuclear Issue Termed 'Snag' in Japan-DPRK Ties

SK0803015592 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
8 Mar 92 p 1

[Correspondent Pu Chi-yong from Tokyo]

[Text] It was learned on the morning of 8 March that North Korea has sent a letter to Shin Kanemaru, vice president of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] saying that it will give Japan its final answer concerning the nuclear issue before 15 April, North Korean President Kim Il-song's birthday.

According to a reliable diplomatic source in Tokyo, Kim Yong-sun, director of the International Department of the Workers' Party of Korea informed LDP Vice President Kanemaru of the decision in letters sent through a messenger and facsimile at the end of February.

A North Korean reply is important for it indicates that North Korea promised to Japan a sort of guarantee and set a date regarding the nuclear issue in relation to Japan-North Korea talks on establishing diplomatic relations. These talks have recently hit a snag due to the nuclear issue.

Meanwhile, North Korea earlier invited LDP Vice President Kanemaru to visit North Korea on President Kim Il-song's birthday anniversary.

Britain Firmly Opposes DPRK Nuclear Development

SK0603233792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0829 GMT
6 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (OANA-YONHAP)—Britain is firmly against North Korean nuclear arms development and plans to withhold any economic cooperation until there is visible progress in nuclear negotiations, Yi Hong-ku, South Korean ambassador to London, said here Friday.

Britain was also important for South Korea's diversification of its military imports, which include hawk missiles, as such purchases were balanced with technology transfers, he said.

The former national unification minister and former special presidential aide for political affairs is in Seoul to attend a chiefs of mission conference.

North Korea was using suspicions about its nuclear capability as a diplomatic card with great success, the ambassador said.

"But the South Korean Government faces duplicity," he told reporters. "We must deter North Korea's nuclear development capability, but also improve inter-Korean relations."

South Korea's allies are putting on pressure to deter North Korea's nuclear development, but it is important to allow some "face saving" on North Korea's part, Yi said.

On South Korea-EC relations, the Seoul government needs to come up with new strategies to deal with the EC as a whole, the ambassador said.

South Korean ambassadors to EC countries meet annually and Korea's missions there are continuing economic research, he said.

Economic ties between Seoul and London are exceptionally good, according to the ambassador. Some 60 percent of the foreign investment since South Korea's stock market opened came from Britain.

Britain is the sixth largest trading partner with an average of 3 billion U.S. dollars in two-way trade. Korea recorded a surplus of approximately 100 million dollars last year.

Daily Views CIS Military's Visit to North

SK0903080092 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 7 Mar 92 p 9

[Article by reporter Han Myong-kyu from "North Korean Information" column: "Lukewarm Military Cooperation With CIS"]

[Excerpts] What relations does North Korea maintain with the CIS since the collapse of the Soviet Union?

A CIS military delegation led by Viktor Samsonov, chief and first deputy chief of the General Staff of the CIS Armed Forces, visited North Korea on 2 March. This visit has made North Korean-CIS relations the recent focus of attention.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union drastically cooled political and economic relations between the former Soviet Union and North Korea, and their relations have not shown any sign of recovery since the CIS's emergence.

The two countries have maintained military ties because of their long relationship as allies, however. Therefore, the visit to North Korea by the Samsonov delegation is worth analyzing. [passage omitted]

North Korean media have not mentioned why the Samsonov delegation visited North Korea. The prevailing opinion is that it was a mere courtesy visit, not a visit to strengthen military relations between North Korea and the CIS.

It is very likely that the CIS asked North Korea to pay for military equipment which the former Soviet Union supplied and to make efforts to ease tension in the Far East. [passage omitted]

In this connection, a ROK Government source said: "The Samsonov delegation visited North Korea to sign a plan to exchange personnel and develop relations between the CIS Armed Forces and the North Korean military for fiscal year 1992-1993. Contrary to some people's worry, this was not a visit to sign a military-technological cooperation agreement."

He also said: "North Korea received military equipment from the former Soviet Union free or paid for with raw

materials up until 1990. As a result of the CIS's conversion of its military industry into civilian use, the CIS is supplying military equipment to North Korea on a commercial basis."

Given the situation, North Korea appears to be having difficulties in paying for the former Soviet Union-supplied military equipment and faces pressure to pay in hard currency (dollars) from this year.

The CIS asked North Korea to pay in hard currency from May of last year. It appears to have postponed this at North Korea's request, however.

Just as it is selling military equipment to Western countries because it is short of money, the CIS may consider selling weapons to North Korea, as well. It is not certain that North Korea will be able to pay because of its foreign currency problem, however.

Militarily, the CIS wants to transform its relations with North Korea from "relations of giving" to "relations of give and take." The CIS is of the position that it "cannot give anything because it has nothing to receive," however.

Chief of General Staff Samsonov said: "It is natural that the CIS and North Korea continue military cooperation. We acknowledge that it is time that we look at military ties with North Korea anew because Western countries entertain misgivings about North Korea's nuclear development," however.

Consequently, the prevailing opinion is that during the Samsonov delegation's visit to North Korea, the two countries merely agreed to exchange military personnel, hold goodwill military athletic games, and extend cooperation to hold military celebrations.

As Samsonov indicated during his interview, it is very likely that the CIS expressed great worry about North Korea's nuclear development.

North Korea's Central Broadcasting Network reported on a meeting of CIS Supreme Council speakers in unprecedented detail on 3 March. From this report, we can feel North Korea's "unfavorable view" of the CIS led by Yeltsin.

Premier Announces Official Opening of Elections

SK0703030992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 7 (YONHAP)—Campaigning for South Korea's 14th National Assembly elections formally kicked off on Saturday, when the government officially announced that the elections will be on March 24.

A preliminary tabulation shows that 1,200 candidates will compete for the 237 seats up for election. Another 62 seats are at stake under the national representation system, in which seats are allotted to parties in proportion to the votes and seats they gain at the polling place.

The five-to-one competition ratio compares with 4.7-to-one in the previous general elections in 1988 and 2.4-to-1 in the polls before those.

In a statement issued with the announcement of the election date, Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said the government would employ all the resources available to it to make the elections cleaner and fairer than in any in the past.

Pointing out that fair elections cannot be achieved by government efforts alone, Chong called on candidates and voters to positively cooperate in rectifying the "mistaken election atmosphere of the past."

The premier warned that the government would deal sternly with anyone violating with election law regardless of their position.

Under the election timetable, candidates must register with a local election committee between Saturday and next Tuesday, after which they can start formal campaigning.

A majority of contenders are backed by one of the major parties. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) has candidates running in all 237 constituencies, and the main opposition Democratic Party is contesting 227 seats.

The Unification National Party, led by former Hyundai Group Chairman Chong Chu-yong, put up 191 candidates: The new political reform party (Shinjong), headed by Rep. Pak Chan-chong, 148; The Fair Democratic Party, 67; and the Masses Party (Minjung), 65.

Electioneering seems destined to be unusually heated this time as a revision to the election law allows individual party-hosted rallies in addition to joint rallies.

The hottest contests are expected to be in Seoul and nearby constituencies. Major parties vow to concentrate on this area, where 82 seats, or 32 percent of the total, are at stake.

The DLP aims to win at least 143 seats, or 60 percent of the total up for grabs, which would give it 37 seats under national representation for 143 seats in the National Assembly. The party says it needs this many to ensure political stability.

The Democratic Party hopes to garner about 120 seats, including 39 in its traditional power base of southwestern Honam and 30 in Seoul.

The immediate goal of the Unification National Party is to secure 20 seats, enough to form an independent floor negotiation body.

Official Appeals for Fair Assembly Elections

SK0703031692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT
7 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 7 (YONHAP)—Central Election Management Committee Chairman Yun Kwan appealed to the nation Saturday for clean and fair elections on March 24 in order to help realize genuine democracy in this country.

In a statement issued to mark the beginning Saturday of the official campaign for the parliamentary elections, Yun warned that "politics in our society will plunge into a state of chaos again should we fail to hold fair elections" for the 14th National Assembly, which will be followed by presidential elections later in the year.

Yun also warned government officials not to meddle in election campaigns and muddle the election processes.

Government officials should refrain from any action that could be interpreted as official interference in the elections, he said.

He called on the government to punish all the violators of the election law regardless of their party affiliation and their official position.

The success or failure of any election ultimately depends on the voters. Yun declared, adding that the people therefore should exercise their rights by rejecting the temptation of money and other unjustifiable incentives and by making up their own mind.

Yun reiterated that voting is the people's "sacred" right and responsibility and urged all voters to cast their ballots on March 24 to select the right representatives.

No Tae-u Urges Tough Action Against Violators

SK0903004492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Mu-chong]

[Text] Taegu—President No Tae-u, on the occasion of the government's announcement of the March 24 general elections yesterday, instructed that all public office holders should ensure the elections are held in a fair and clean atmosphere.

The president strongly called on law-enforcement authorities to get tough with election law violators in accordance with laws, irrespective of their status or political affiliation.

No also asked the administration to exert efforts to having voters acknowledge that any one who violates election laws should not be elected. He was receiving a briefing on the programs of the Kyongsang-pukto [North Kyongsang province] provincial government for 1992.

Referring to the provincial administration's policy goals, the president revealed that the government would designate the northern region of the province as "special development region within this year.

Especially, he directed Trade-Industry Minister Han Pong-su to form a "triangle industrial belt" covering Kumi, Andong and Sangju and to foster the electronic industry of high technology there.

He told Construction Minister So Yong-taek to speed up work on the highway linking Taegu and Andong.

The Chief Executive further said that the port city of Pohang would play a major role as a key port on the east coast in light of its geographic traits and stressed the need to develop the industrial city as an international port.

Civil Group Requests No's Political Neutrality

SK0903005192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] A civil organization campaigning for fair elections yesterday called upon President No Tae-u to maintain political neutrality to ensure clean and fair Assembly elections on March 24.

The Citizens Association for Fair Elections issued a statement calling for fair elections at the end of a meeting of senior advisors of the body at the Songhyon Club restaurant in THE KOREA TIMES Building timed with the start of candidates registration yesterday.

"The forthcoming general elections are significant as they will determine whether fair elections can take root in our country," the advisors of the voluntary election watchdog said in the statement. Participants at the meeting included Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan and former deputy premier-economic planning minister Yi Han-pin. The association is composed of leading figures from various walks of life.

They said, "We hope that the president will express his determination to maintain political neutrality in order to prevent the administration from intervening in the elections."

The statement did not elaborate on what President No should do to ensure fair elections. President No has come under fire from the opposition for his current inspection tour of provincial capitals in which he issued what seemed to be election pledges. No concurrently heads the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

The civil association also appealed to the people to join in distributing of pamphlets and posters calling for fair elections on March 15, designated by the association as a day to renew the determination there be fair elections.

Kim Yong-sam Concerned About Presidential Election

SK0703013192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Mar 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column entitled: "Bigger Job"]

[Text] Yongdok, Kyongsang-pukto [North Kyongsang Province]—Ruling party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam appears to be more concerned with the presidential election than the March 24 Assembly elections.

In a rally for Rep. Hwang Pyong-u, who will run here in the parliamentary elections, Kim called upon the participants to back Hwang so that he (Kim) can do a "bigger and better" job.

He said the Assembly elections are very crucial to the December presidential balloting.

Only when the ruling party emerges as a majority force in the Assembly can the nation continue its stable development, to say nothing of national reunification, he said.

Rebuffing the criticism that he joined the ruling camp just to become president, Kim said he decided to join hands with President No Tae-u and Kim Chong-pil to save the nation.

Had it not been for that decision, he said the nation may have experienced another suspension of constitutional order.

In order to have President No serve out his term in peace, it is absolutely necessary for the ruling camp to become the majority force, Kim said.

After the rally, he left for Kyongju. Today Kim will canvas all district chapters in Taegu.

DLP Announces National Constituency Nominees

SK0503051492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0411 GMT
5 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) announced Thursday the names of 54 nominees for national constituency seats in the National Assembly under the proportional representation system.

The first name on the list belongs to DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, who is followed by DLP Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, Assembly Vice Speaker Kim Chae-kwang and former Prime Minister No Chae-pong.

Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu of the Konghwa faction (Kim Chong-pil faction) was excluded. It is likely that all names above 37th will get National Assembly seats.

Followings are the nominees in order.

1. Kim Yong-sam (65, executive chairman)
2. Pak Tae-chun (65, co-chairman)

3. Kim Chae-kwang (70, National Assembly vice speaker)
4. No Chai-pong (56, ex-prime minister)
5. Kwon Ik-hyon (58, ex-executive chairman of the Democratic Justice Party)
6. Yi Man-sop (60, ex-president of the Korea National Party)
7. Chong Sok-mo (63, incumbent lawmaker)
8. An Mu-hyok (57, ex-director of the Agency for National Security Planning)
9. Yi Won-choe (59, incumbent lawmaker)
10. Choe Pyong-yol (54, labor minister)
11. Kim Chong-in (52, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs)
12. Kim Kwang-so (67, ex-lawmaker)
13. Pak Chae-hong (51, incumbent lawmaker)
14. Kang Son-yong (67, chairman of Federation of Artistic and Cultural Organization of Korea)
15. Chong Si-chae (56, ex-lawmaker)
16. Choe Wun-chi (65, incumbent lawmaker)
17. Kang Yong-sik (53, chief secretary at prime minister's secretariat)
18. Kim Yong-su (58, ex-deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning)
19. Kim Yong-chin (52, ex-governor of Kangwon Province)
20. Kang Sin-ok (56, incumbent lawmaker)
21. So Sang-mok (46, incumbent lawmaker)
22. Yun tae-kyun (57, ex-president of Korea Highway Corp.)
23. Pak Ku-il (58, ex-commander of the Marine Corps)
24. Kwak Yong-tal (58, ex-president of the Korea Air Force Academy)
25. Yi Myong-pak (51, ex-chairman of Hyundai Construction and Engineering Co.)
26. Yi Hwan-ui (61, ex-president of MBC)
27. Kang In-sop (56, ranking party official)
28. Kim Tong-kun (62, chief secretary of co-chairman Kim Chong-pil)
29. Choe Sang-yong (54, vice chairman of Federation of Korea Trade Unions)
30. Chu Yang-cha (61, chairman of Korea Medical Insurance Corp.)
31. Yi Hyon-su (54, Vice chairman of Youone Construction Co.)
32. No In-to (56, Auditor of national agricultural cooperatives federation)
33. Ku Chon-so (42, Chairman of youth subcommittee at the party central committee)
34. Cho Yong-chik (52, DLP vice spokesman)
35. Ku Chang-nim (51, chief secretary of National Assembly speaker)
36. Pak Kun-ho (51, professor of Dongguk Univ.)
37. Yu Song-hwan (61, ex-lawmaker)
38. Yi Chae-myong (44, president of Daewoo Automotive Component Ltd.)
39. Chong Ok-sun (54, director of party's women's bureau)
40. Yun Won-chung (48, director of party's planning and adjustment bureau)
41. Kim Chan-tu (60, vice chairman of the party Central Committee)
42. Kim Sa-song (64, governor of North Pyongan Province)
43. Yi Nyon-suk (47, director of party's organization bureau)
44. Yi Min-hun (48, secretary-general of North Kyongsang Province district chapter)
45. Kim Chae-sok (51, director for party's general affairs bureau)
46. Yi Su-tam (45, director of party's public relations bureau)
47. Pae Kil-lang (50, administration chief of party's administration analysis committee)
48. Kim Chong-suk (46, chairman of second subcommittee on women's affairs at party Central Committee)
49. Kim Hyon-pae (44, chairman of the Korea Federation of Youth Leaders)
50. Kim Mu-song (41, director of party's lawmakers' bureau)
51. Pak Sung-ung (47, secretary-general of Seoul chapter)
52. Chin Kyong-tak (47, director of party's youth bureau)
53. Ho Se-wuk (47, director of party's labor and social affairs bureau)
54. Kim Yong-sun (43, aide to executive chairman)

DLP Suffers In-House Protests Over Candidates

SK0703021892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
7 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is being wracked by in-house protests over its controversial selection of proportional representative nominees.

The secretariat has been crippled since Thursday afternoon when 200 staff members walked out to protest the placement of 13 senior secretariat staffers on the 54-man list.

All 13 were listed 39th or lower. The ruling party predicts that if it wins 55 percent of the total 237 seats in the local electoral districts, it will get 35 "national constituency seats."

Moreover, some local candidates, who worry about the possible ill effects of the internal trouble on their campaigns protested, too.

DLP co-chairman Kim Chong-pil Thursday vented his anger over the fact that just two seats were allotted to his faction.

The party leadership is combing for a solution to end the protests.

A key DLP post-holder said yesterday, "We do not know what to do to stem the outcry by the secretariat staff as well as harsh public criticism which calls for an end to the proportional representative format."

He added, "If the party leadership fails to deal with the problem in an intelligent manner, the party will be dealt a serious blow in the upcoming parliamentary elections."

A DLP nominee who's running in Seoul protested, saying "The lineup of the proportional representative nominees smacks of favoritism."

He also pointed out that figures from Taegu-Kyongbuk (T-K force) were listed in the "Safe 35."

The secretariat staff continued holding meetings yesterday afternoon.

DLP Attempts To Curb Unification Party Momentum

*SK0903011392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 2*

[Text] With the parliamentary election campaign in full swing, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] takes more heat from the toddling Unification National party [UNP] than the seasoned Democratic Party [DP].

It becomes nervous because the UNP, led by Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong, is sure to be nibbling at the support base of the ruling party rather than that of the DP of Kim Tae-chung.

The DLP empirically knows the fathom of the DP's support base but is not able to measure up the UNP's potential, which makes it even fretful.

The vote returns in the last general election showed that the Kim Tae-chung party has rallied support from Cholla provinces and some of the capital districts.

The ruling party regards "the DP as a rival and the UNP as a spoiler," as a political observer put it.

The DLP seems to be all-out to keep on guard against the heap of criticism poured by the UNP through advertisements in newspapers and venomous verbal attacks by Chong in his campaign swing.

The "war" between the DLP and the UNP was launched after the No Tae-u government had levied a record punitive tax amounting to 136.1 billion won on the Hyundai Group for its "illegal stock transactions" among Chong and his family.

Chong was quick to give riposte to the No administration by divulging that he gave a total of 26 billion won in political funds to No, apparently aiming at tarnishing No's moral image.

Chong also lashes out at the economic policies by the No government, including a plan to construct a Seoul-Pusan "superspeed" railroad, snowballing foreign debts and downbeat economy.

Accordingly, the DLP is zeroing in on staving off the "UNP wind" with the goal of winning more than 140 seats, or 60 percent of the total 237 local seats up for grabs.

The DLP hopes a bipartisan system with the DP as its partner. It believes that the DP will maintain its status as the largest opposition party.

However, it is clear that the ruling party does not want the UNP to emerge as a party with more than 20 seats, the requirement to become a "dialogue partner" on the floor.

In this context, the ruling party attempts to put a brake on the momentum which the UNP is gaining by publicizing the danger when a billionaire like Chong fares well.

Another challenge facing the DLP is that from those who were former DLP lawmakers but bolted from the party in protest of its denial of nomination.

Many ex-DLP lawmakers are running in the coming elections with considerable chance to defeat the DLP nominees.

At the time of the merger of three parties about two years ago, the total number of the DLP legislators reached 217 but now it numbers 199.

Unification Party Overcomes Serious Disadvantages

*SK0903010992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 2*

[Text] It seems that the Unification National Party [UNP] is coming over two serious disadvantages which it has shouldered since its foundation barely a month ago. It is further changing the demerits into its own merits.

A lot of people both in and outside the party doubted that the UNP with few men of national appeal could contend with two existing parties in such a short span of time. Some were also skeptical about Chong Chu-yong's new career and his party's role as a political group at a time business conglomerates, or chaebol, are widely associated as a dinosaur in the business field.

The UNP has no regional power base nor strong support group, while the ruling party is backed by the south-eastern Yongnam area and middle and above-middle class and its main opposition Democratic Party [DP] is liked by those in their 20's and 30's and underprivileged people, plus loyal Honam people.

Chong's fat purse appears to be the only weapon available to the new party.

Through a series to massive advertisements in vernacular newspapers and gala ceremonies for the formation of its local network, it is printing a vivid image, whether favorable or unfavorable, in the minds of the electorate.

The remaining task is to portray itself as a group deserving a share in the political scene. The current business slowdown has offered a good chance for the UNP to attack the No Tae-u administration and its party.

Chong Chu-yong's surge to the top of the business world from a penniless jobseeker is enabling his party to present ideas for business recovery with pride and confidence.

Yet a greater boost is widespread distrust in the existing political regime. It is scoring credit one by one amid political apathy and is emerging as an alternative to No Democratic Liberal Party and the DP, UNP campaigners said.

Still, it has a big problem. Many of its nominees are those who failed to get UNP and DP candidacies and regarded as not so well qualified as rivals fielded by the two main parties. The reason for their failure in the nomination competition was not their disqualification but weak "blind loyalty" to the leadership of the existing parties, UNP campaigners said.

If there is a great surprise in the coming votes, UNP strategists said, it will be a surge of the UNP and independents.

DP's Kim Tae-chung Maintains Low-Key Approach

SK0903005992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
8 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The Democratic Party's [DP] main campaign theme is an appeal for making the opposition party big and strong enough to check the administration.

Chairman Kim Tae-chung has recently concealed his presidential ambition and is just stressing the need for a "sound opposition force" in an adroit strategy to remind the electorate of some political irregularities which he said have stemmed from the appearance of the giant government party.

He never speaks of grandiose slogans, which he used to present in previous elections, such as "down with the incumbent power," "an end to military rule," or "objection to politicking by security agencies."

Not in a high pitch, the eloquent populist politician attacks the No Tae-u administration's failures in domestic policies and puts forward a set of alternatives.

His low-key approach poses a stark contrast with a series of suggestions by ruling party leaders' ambition for presidential candidacy.

DP campaigners judge that their criticism on No's poor economic policies and own alternatives to them are appealing both in urban and rural communities.

In farming villages, the "centric-progressive" party is blaming the administration for its lack of negotiating power in the Uruguay Round trade talks.

Voters in rural areas, bent on pork-barrelling by the administration, had long been loyal to the ruling party but recent trends show that they are largely critical of the government's opening of the farm produce market.

Aiming at securing 100 seats at the 299-member National Assembly to bar the ruling camp from rewriting the constitution, the DP is concentrating its electioneering on those in the 20's and 30's, thought to choose reforms rather than status quo, and account for as much as 57 percent all eligible voters.

The DP is persuading the young electorate to present themselves at polling booths this time to "accomplish a revolution through elections" in the belief that the high rate of their abstention was one great cause of its defeat in the June 26, 1991, local council ballots.

Burma

Government Troops Capture Karens' Bina Camp

*BK0703144392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Because of the bravery of Defense Services members who are upholding the three cardinal causes and performing national defense duties, victories continue in the capture of the camps of terrorist insurgents who are obstructing local peace and order, and engaging in destructive activities.

Our Defense Services columns under the supervision of the Forward 44th Light Infantry Division and the Forward 88th Light Infantry Division in the Southeast Military Command simultaneously attacked and smashed Bina and (Shitha) Camps under the control of the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgent organization at the border on 0720 on 5 March. Because of the bravery of our troops, Bina camp and the entire Bina area were captured at 1130.

In that campaign, our troops fought two major battles. During these battles, the bodies of 17 terrorist insurgents were recovered and 1,100 rounds of ammunition, four M-16 magazines, two RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] projectiles, 27 bunkers with roofs, and 32 huts were captured. During the campaign, a Defense Services member laid down his life for the country while 16 were wounded.

Our military columns are now pursuing and mopping up terrorist insurgents who had fled the Bina Camp.

Karen Rebels Said To Launch 'All-Out Attack'

*BK0703145892 Hong Kong AFP in English
1452 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] Bangkok, March 7 (AFP)—Karen forces have launched an all-out attack on a Burmese battalion to drive Rangoon troops away from the ethnic rebels' headquarters at Manerplaw, a Thai border police officer said Saturday [7 March].

Forces of the Karen National Union (KNU) began a counter-offensive late Friday [6 March] against Burmese troops which have suffered heavy casualties and were running short of ammunition as their supply lines were hampered by the treacherous terrain and Karen snipers, the Thai Border Patrol Police (BPP) officer said.

The attack was aimed at driving several Burmese battalions out of positions near Golden Mountain, a jungle-clad area overlooking the Moei river and Manerplaw, the KNU headquarters near the Thai border, he said.

"Burmese troops have been heavily shelling KNU positions with 80 mm, 81 mm and 120 mm mortars since earlier this month, but the Karens are on the attack and the situation is very fluid," he said. "There are many casualties, especially on the Burmese side."

"The Burmese are in a tight situation," the officer added. Further south, four battalions of Burmese troops also suffered hundreds of casualties attempting to take the Karens' Kawmura camp, southwest of the Thai border town of Mae Sot, another BPP officer said.

About 30 shells landed in Thailand this week, prompting Thai gunners to fire smoke shells across the border to warn the Burmese. The shelling was then restricted to Karen positions, the officer said.

"The Burmese shelling died down Thursday. We think they have run out of mortar rounds because the Karens are ambushing them and sniping on their supply routes," he said.

"The Karens have just begun their counter-offensive with some 1,600 guerrillas," he added.

It would be difficult for Burmese forces to take Kawmura if they cannot cross the Moei into Thailand to attack the rear of KNU positions, he said, adding that Thailand would not allow Rangoon troops into its territory.

Minister Returns From Lao Drug Control Meeting

*BK0803125392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] U Ohn Gyaw, foreign affairs minister and vice chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC], and a Myanmar [Burmese] delegation returned by air this morning after attending the second Myanmar [Burma]-Lao coordination meeting on bilateral narcotics suppression held in Vientiane in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], on 2-5 March 1992.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon [Rangoon] airport by Major General Myo Nyunt, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of Yangon military command; Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance and for trade; U Khin Maung Yin, minister for construction; Mr. Kideng Thammavong, ambassador of Laos; responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the people's police force.

The U Ohn Gyaw-led delegation held discussions on bilateral cooperation on narcotics suppression activities with the Lao delegation headed by Mr. Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister and chairman of the Lao National Commission for Narcotics Control and Supervision; and the delegation led by Mr. William Beachner, regional director of the UNDCP. All parties signed the meeting's memorandum on the morning of 6 March.

The Myanmar delegation traveled to the Luang Namtha district on 3-4 March and also studied a joint Lao-UNDCP project.

While in Laos, U Ohn Gyaw called separately on Laotian President Mr. Kaysone Phomvihane and Prime Minister Mr. Khamtai Siphandon and held discussions with them on bilateral cooperation.

Mr. William Beachner, regional director of the UNDCP Bangkok regional office; Mr. (Alexander Scheaver), adviser from the Lao UNDCP office; and Mr. Stan Kristensen, adviser from the Myanmar UNDCP office, also attended the second coordination meeting on bilateral narcotics suppression activities.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Burma Asked To Allow Muslims To Return

BK0803131092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0800 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia has requested the Government of Myanmar [Burma] to cease oppression of the Myanmar Muslims, many of whom have been forced to flee the country.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in Kuala Lumpur that the refugees should be allowed to return to Myanmar with the promise that no action will be taken against them. Malaysia viewed with grave concern the action that have been taken, particularly by the Myanmar military, against the community. Datuk Abdullah said, the Foreign Ministry would summon the Myanmar ambassador in Kuala Lumpur U Ko to inform him of Malaysia's position in the matter. Malaysia's permanent representative in the United Nations will be asked to put forward any decision [words indistinct] on the Myanmar Muslims.

Possibility of ASEAN Defense Alliance Viewed

BK0903102492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 9 Mar 92

[John Doraisamy commentary]

[Text] The Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN is a dynamic regional organization. It has grown from strength to strength although it has never considered itself to be a defense alliance. There is no reason why it cannot become a defense alliance (?many years) from now if it were considered necessary. ASEAN has always worked on the basis of existing policies that are pragmatic and reflect such needs. From time to time, political and strategic experts have recommended that ASEAN should develop into a full-scale defense treaty organization. There have been several such pacts in the world after the Second World War. [words indistinct]

In the new climate of peace that is sweeping the world, bilateral rather than wide-ranging or multilateral military pacts are the trends. Malaysia has a number of traditional defense or military links with its ASEAN

neighbors. For example, the Malaysian Armed Forces participate in combined exercises with those of other countries. Officers from a number of countries attend courses at the Malaysian Defense Academy. Similarly, Malaysian officers are sent to a variety of training and military colleges overseas.

The serious cooperation exists between Malaysia and Thailand in respect of the border region. During the emergency between 1948 to 1960, this cooperation was very vital. The Malayan Communist Party used the difficult terrain of the Malaysia-Thailand border region. From those jungle hideouts, the guerrillas [words indistinct] to attack Malaysian and Thai territories. Today, the communists have been stamped out. The same degree of cooperation is being enhanced to ensure that illegal immigration and drug smuggling do not take place.

Malaysia is a signatory to the Five-Power Defense Arrangement. The other members are Britain, Australia, Singapore, and New Zealand. This arrangement has (?served) the strategic interests of all the parties. In a recent article in the Defense Journal, the chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces pointed out the salient features of Malaysian policy. The Malaysian Government would revise the policy if events and developments in the ASEAN region [words indistinct]. The overall goal is to turn ASEAN into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality. Peace and stability are returning to the Indochina peninsula. The orders of communist aggression and subversion are memories of the past. Malaysia and its ASEAN partners will pursue economic development. They will also be prepared to counter any threats to their territorial integrity.

BBC To Aid English Language Broadcasting

BK0503091692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0525 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] London, March 5, (OANA-BERNAMA)—The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) will be extending training facilities to Malaysia to help the government's efforts to improve the quality of English language broadcasting in the country.

Malaysian Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat, who held preliminary discussions with top officials of the corporation, said Malaysia also intended to use some of the BBC's World Service news.

These would be for the local television network and also one of the two channels of the Subscription News Service (SNS) scheduled to start in the middle of this year.

Mohamed, who met the managing director of the World Service network, John Tusa, over dinner hosted by the BBC, said that the choice of BBC World Service news was to counterbalance the American perspective afforded by output from Cable News Network (CNN), which would also be used on one of the SNS channels.

BBC Urged To Set Up Open University Program

*BK0603083892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0600 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, has been urged to submit a proposal for the setting up of an open university program (?to improve) the educational television service in Malaysia. This was one of the matters raised in talks between Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and the general manager of the BBC World Service, John Tusa, in London.

Datuk Mohamed Rahmat told reporters in the British capital a date for the launching of the open university concept would be fixed once the BBC proposal was submitted and studied by the Malaysian Government.

Singapore

Government, Rulers Dispute in Malaysia Viewed

*BK0803105392 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 7 Mar 92 p 30*

[Editorial: "Strengthening Democracy"]

[Text] The present dispute between the Malaysian government and the nine hereditary rulers is only the latest manifestation of an old problem—what role should be played by the Sultans in the political life of the country? In 1983, concern over the refusal of some Sultans to assent to legislation led the Mahathir government to amend the federal constitution to curtail their blocking power. This was to prevent a possible paralysis of the federal government by a future unco-operative King. At the state level, such refusals had led to the resignation of a few Mentris Besar [Chief Minister]. The amendment made it clear that even if the King were to refuse assent, the Bill would eventually be deemed duly enacted as law. Today, the Malaysian government's unhappiness is over the interference of the monarchs in politics, state administration and private business. In the event, an agreement was reached between the rulers and Umno [United Malays National Organization], which is the principal party in the ruling coalition, on a code of conduct to govern the relations between them.

Both these confrontations have had some benefit for Malaysian democracy. The difficulty has always been the tension between a Westminster-style constitutional monarchy and the tradition of regal absolutism in the country. Vague constitutional provisions compounded the problem of delineating the precise role of the rulers, both at the state and the federal levels. This was worrying as there was a tendency towards autocracy among some of the rulers based on their belief of the unquestioning obedience by their subjects to their wishes. The code of conduct would go some way to check this by making clear the constitutional limits of their powers. One consequence would be a strengthening of Malaysian democracy by making the monarchs understand the division of powers enshrined in the constitution. The

rulers are the symbols of Malay unity and heads of the Islamic religion in their states, and thus should be above politics. It is the elected leaders who have responsibility for matters of national policy and appointments.

It is a reflection of the maturity of the Malaysian political system that this dispute was resolved in a "spirit of friendliness". It is not just the absence of civil unrest that is noteworthy but also the fact that the parties in the dispute resolved it within the constitutional framework. Even when an appeal for support for its case was made to the people by the government, it was with the view to bolster the monarchy's status within the constitution. As the government pointed out, the rulers would lose the support of the people if they continually overstepped their constitutional authority. Such an appeal to the constitution cannot but further entrench constitutional government in Malaysia. This is no mean achievement in a region where constitutions either come and go with dizzying speed or have yet to be seriously tested in a political crisis.

This development has come at an opportune time. As Malaysia sets about to realise what its government has called Vision 2020—to be a developed nation by then—any feudal hangover would only impede its progress. In order to be a modern industrial society, this issue of regal absolutism must be laid to rest. In its place should be a more discerning loyalty to the rulers that fits better with the social-economic changes that are taking place in Malaysian society. The country simply cannot afford rulers bullying civil servants, quarrelling with Mentris Besar and seeking special privileges in business. Such contentious behaviours would only create political instability. This in turn would undermine the social cohesion necessary for the concerted effort needed to achieve developed country status by the year 2020. So it was just as well that the present dispute was brought into the open and resolved without rancour. Out of it, Malaysia has come out the winner.

Cambodia

Tripartite Talks on POW's, MIA's Held 6 Mar

*BK0603124792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Unattributed "press communique on the Cambodian-Vietnamese-U.S. talk"—read by announcer]

[Text] Representatives of the State of Cambodia, the SRV, and the United States held tripartite talks in Phnom Penh on 6 March to discuss the issue of U.S. prisoners of war and U.S. soldiers missing in action [MIAs]. The talk was useful and constructive. It was permeated with a sense of humanitarianism and cooperation. There was progress in the efforts to further improve the methods of searching for Americans reported missing in Southeast Asia, particularly in Cambodia during the years of the war that ended in 1975.

Many search and research methods and direct measures were discussed, as well as other actions that the three countries may take in searching as thoroughly as possible for the U.S. MIAs.

The three delegations agreed to continue discussions and cooperation in the search for a solution to this humanitarian issue.

Ranariddh Speech Welcomes Sihanouk to Zone

BK0903104592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Speech by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, FUNCINPEC; supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia; and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, SNC; to welcome the recent visit by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and member of the SNC, at Phum Trom-Ampil village, Oddar Meanchey Province—recorded]

[Text] My most profound respects to your royal highness the most revered and beloved Samdech Euv [Prince Father], head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]; my respects to your royal highness the princess consort; my respects to Samdech Chakkrei [Nhoek Chu-long], honorary chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]; his excellency the head of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], their excellencies the ambassadors, guests of honor, ladies and gentlemen of the FUNCINPEC delegation, ladies and gentlemen:

Today is the most auspicious day to be inscribed in the pages of history since it marks the moment that our revered Samdech Euv, head of state and SNC chairman, and your royal highness the princess consort are visiting the zone controlled by FUNCINPEC in Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey Province. On behalf of Buddhist monks, officers, NCO's, the rank and file, FUNCINPEC civilian administrators, and all the population of the FUNCINPEC zone who are your true children, Samdech Euv, I have the greatest honor and deepest satisfaction to humbly welcome you, revered Samdech Euv, and your royal highness the princess consort because regardless of your very busy schedule you so kindly are spending what little spare time you have to pay a visit to your children in this liberated zone.

Revered Samdech Euv and your royal highness the princess consort, you have made a special sacrifice by delaying your travel abroad in response to the call of the Cambodian people despite the fact that, Samdech Euv, you are in great need of undergoing a medical checkup. Your children have noted that your compassionate attention to and generous care for your subjects has long been your trademark. For this reason, revered Samdech Euv, you undeniably are the genuine successor of all the

great Khmer kings of the Angkor era [applause], such as King Jayavarman VII, who said that the people's woes were his personal woes. [cheer "Long Live Samdech Euv" and applause]

I would like to express most profound gratitude to Your August Samdech Euv and your royal highness the princess consort for paying a visit to the FUNCINPEC zone today. I also humbly beg the permission of your august Samdech Euv and your royal highness the princess consort to express thanks to all their excellencies the guests of honor, especially his excellency the head of UNAMIC, their excellencies the ambassadors representing the UN Security Council, and ambassadors of other friendly countries who are coming to the zone under our control.

Revered Samdech Euv, your royal highness the princess consort, Samdech Chakkrei, his excellency the head of UNAMIC, their excellencies the ambassadors, beloved combatants, ladies and gentlemen, on this most propitious occasion, all of us who are the children of your august Samdech Euv feel extremely proud to belong to the sihanoukist movement. [long applause] FUNCINPEC is a party rallying everybody who has sihanoukist beliefs.

We sihanoukists have never forgotten the time when our beloved Cambodia under the most enlightened leadership of Your Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk savored peace, development, and progress in all sectors, experienced unity and solidarity among the Khmer in the national construction task, and witnessed mutual respect among the Khmer throughout the society. [applause and cheer] In that era we Khmer enjoyed genuine independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In that era all Khmer witnessed the tremendous growth of Buddhism and the worship and tolerance of other religions. Sihanoukists respect the values of each individual and social justice. Sihanoukists under the current circumstances have the resolute intention of continuing to provide social justice for the people and to make Cambodia strong in the political, socioeconomic, and national cultural fields. [applause] We have the duty to preserve and maintain the achievements that we have already made. We will make some structural changes in the form of modifications to enable the Cambodian people to turn themselves into free citizens in a glorious and free Cambodia. [applause]

Revered Samdech Euv, your children are extremely proud of your success in the national reconciliation and peace policy. On the other hand as a matter of fact, the major ideas contained in the accords signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 are mostly yours. Moreover, the Khmer of all tendencies under your very astute leadership have begun with goodwill to implement the cease-fire since 24 May 1991. The cease-fire went into effect as of 23 June 1991, which should be regarded as the historic day of peace in Cambodia. [applause]

Since the signing of the Cambodia peace accords in Paris, revered Samdech Euv, you have braved all kinds of obstacles to effectively and concretely implement these accords. [applause] No one can forget the positive outcome of the meeting held under your lofty chairmanship at Khemarin Palace in Phnom Penh on 14 January 1992, a meeting which was also witnessed by his excellency the representative of UNAMIC and their excellencies representing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. That excellent outcome concerned the release of political and war prisoners, the agreement to allow the establishment of a multiparty system—that is, the permission to have several parties—the recognition of the right and freedom to set up associations, and the recognition of and respect for human rights, including the freedom of expression and the press. That meeting gave full freedom to journalists to freely enter Cambodia and to have the right to ask for permission to stay in Cambodia to perform their profession. [applause] More recently still, there was the creation under your august chairmanship of a unified committee of Red Cross participated by the Red Cross of all Cambodian factions.

In light of your success and ceaseless efforts, revered Samdech Euv, your children would like to express their most profound thanks with the highest sense of respect to their royal father. [applause and cheer] We, your children, are not afraid to assert most categorically that peace cannot be achieved in Cambodia without the presence of our revered Samdech Euv. [applause and cheer]

Revered Samdech Euv, I ask your permission to succinctly relate the resolution of the FUNCINPEC congress held from 27 to 28 February here.

1. To prepare the grounds for the political contest in the upcoming elections, the congress decides to change its statutes from a front into a political party to meet the conditions stated in the Cambodia peace accords signed on 23 October 1991. [applause and cheering] In this case, the congress unanimously endorses its manifesto and political platform. I ask your royal highness revered Samdech Euv and your royal highness the princess consort permission to inform you that the statutes of the FUNCINPEC party have created a structure with its own peculiarities: The Congress is the party's supreme organization. The chairman is the party's leader. The Congress is the one which elects the chairman. The National Council is the organ responsible for the legislative. The members of this Premier Committee [keana kammathika neayuok] must be chosen from among the members of the National Council. The Premier Committee has the duty of initiating and controlling the policy and activities of the party.

The General Secretariat is the organ responsible for the executive. It carries through the policy that the party has espoused.

2. After elections, if we win, the FUNCINPEC party will hand over state authority to Samdech Euv so that you

can lead [applause and cheering] and reunify our Cambodian nation once again. [applause]

3. To support the current and future royal peace crusade and inscribe in history your achievement in bringing peace back to Cambodia.

5. [number as heard] To oppose corrupt practices, treason, violations of human rights, and contracts on or sales of national assets and any contracts and treaties that run counter to the national interests. [applause]

6. To promise to provide fully qualified leaders in the future Government of Cambodia.

7. To urge all Cambodian factions that have signed the Paris peace accords to respect and implement these accords 100 percent. [applause]

8. To urge Cambodian parties and Cambodian citizens to uphold the stance of national reconciliation for the sake of peace in Cambodia.

9. To demand that the SNC fully have the role as the legitimate organization and sole source of power which symbolizes Cambodia's sovereignty, independence, and unity in the transitional period as stipulated in the Paris accords. [applause]

10. To decide to adopt the following motto for the implementation of its political platform: "Unite in Following Samdech Euv to Rebuild Cambodia." [long applause and cheering]

In conclusion, all your children would like to renew their profound gratitude to you for making selfless and tireless efforts in seeking peace for the Cambodian nation. All of us would like to express our undying loyalty and allegiance to you and pray to the three jewels of Buddhism to protect you, revered Samdech Euv, and your royal highness the princess consort. May both of you enjoy the best of health and live a long life so that your children can take safe refuge under your very serene shade forever. [long applause and cheer]

I also beg your permission to wish all guests of honor excellent successes in the mission of bringing peace back to and rebuilding Cambodia. Long live Samdech Euv! [cheering] Long live Cambodia! [cheering] Thank you. [applause]

Sihanouk Visits Svay Rieng, Gives Speeches

At Provincial Hospital

BK0903062792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
7 Mar 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at Svay Rieng Provincial Hospital on 6 March—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] My respects to His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim and his wife; to

their excellencies the leaders and officials of the Government and Armed Forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]; to all excellencies representing the party of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; to all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. My respects to all excellencies, the ambassadors and diplomats present here, and to doctors and ladies of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations who are here in Svay Rieng Province to help us.

I thank all of you for being here to welcome me. "I would like to express my moving sentiments to meet up with the children after being separated for over 20 years." Children who are doctors and nurses in the hospital told me not to desert them again. "I am not going to desert you again. I will stay with you forever. I did not desert the children, but I was prevented from returning." They kept me in exile then, so I was away from you. Now I am very glad to see all of you again.

I would like to thank H.E. Chea Sim and wife and all leaders of the CPP and SOC Government for making it possible for me and my wife to see our beloved compatriots again. I am very satisfied with the progress made in all fields thanks to the efforts of the leaders of the CPP and SOC Government and especially the great unity among the people throughout the country, including all of you in Svay Rieng Province. Since my return, Their Excellencies Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin have asked me to regard them as my own children. They have also restored the achievements made during my Sangkum Reas Niyum era. I have good memories of the past when I used to visit children everywhere, especially all of you in Svay Rieng Province. Although I am old, I am happy to see that our nation, Buddhism, and other religions have been revived. "The war is over now. From now on, we will enjoy peace. But without good health, without strength, we will not be able to defend our country; we will not be able to build our country to make it develop rapidly." All of you doctors, nurses, researchers, pharmacists, and all the health personnel form an Army of peace that takes care of our public health. If we are healthy, we will succeed in defending and rebuilding our country. Never forget that without a rapid progress in education and public health, we will not be able to build our country. This is why in the present CPP era we must always give priority to mass education and public health, just as we did in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era of the past.

"This is very important for our nation and our future. Youths are our future." This is why I am very pleased to see here and in other provinces I have visited that the CPP and SOC Government have already restored and developed the achievements of the Sangkum Reas Niyum era and have added even more outstanding ones for the prosperity of our nation. I would like to again commend the CPP and SOC Government for that.

"Children, this is a time for all of us to unite in order to consolidate and expand our forces for national defense and reconstruction." For this reason, it is a very good omen to see the leaders of the CPP and those of other parties jointly accompanying me on this trip. "This is because, although we are from different parties, we should unite to defend and rebuild our nation and resolve whatever problems of the nation—which are problems we have in common—there may be. That is very good."

I would like to once again commend and thank the children in the medical sector for their sacrifices in providing patient care.

I would like to end the speech now because it is time for all you children to have your meal and rest, and because H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and Madame Chea Sim are giving me and your princess mother a banquet. I would like also to express special thanks to our foreign friends, doctors, and ladies for their very kind assistance to Cambodia in the medical and humanitarian fields.

Now I would like to read out a list of gifts presented to me by H.E. Chea Sim for distribution to the children:

The following are the money and materials supplied to me for distribution to the hospital and hospitalized orphans, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in Svay Rieng: two million riels for repairing the hospital; and 299 packages of materials each containing a scarf, a piece of cloth, a sarong, and a sum of 1,000 riel.

I also would like to make a personal donation of 500 U.S. dollars to the hospital as well.

May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

At School Inauguration

*BK0803115392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk during a visit and inauguration of a primary school in Svay Rieng Province on 6 March—recorded]

[Summary from poor reception] Greetings to everyone. I would like to thank His Excellency Chairman Chea Sim and wife for arranging my visit to Svay Rieng Province.

The revival of Buddhism and other religions in our country is the achievement of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] under the leadership of H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and the State of Cambodia's Government lead by H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin and H.E. Hun Sen. I praise the all-round development in Svay Rieng Province.

The United Nations have recognized us as a country with independence and peace; Cambodians must be

reconciled. "On the 15th this month, the UN representative will come and stay with us along with an over 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force."

According to the Paris agreement, we should adhere to liberal democracy with many parties. I believe we can be proud in the future. According to the agreement, "there will be elections in April 1993," where you will elect the persons you like and trust. "For example, if you like the chairman of the CPP and want him to represent you, then you elect him. This is just an example."

There will be 120 people's representatives to be elected nationwide. These representatives are very important in serving the people. "There will be two elections; one for National Assembly members and the other for the head of state who does not hold power but acts as a protector of the people, the way I am to you now" so that you will be reconciled and will be able to work with freedom, solidarity, friendship, and fraternity.

"Thus, please be informed that during the elections there will be two ballot boxes at each polling station; one for National Assembly members and the other for the head of state." "I will run for the head of state. However, I will not contest to be a National Assembly representative." "Up to now, I do not know who else will run against me. H.E. Chea Sim said his side supports me. One or two more parties might also vote for me." There will be two ballot boxes, one for National Assembly representatives and one for the head of state.

In sum, I will not contest with the candidates for the National Assembly, I will only run the head of state contest. "I do not know who will run against me. There might be one or two more candidates at the most. It will be easy for you to choose." "As for the National Assembly representatives, there will be many candidates running for the 120 seats in the National Assembly. Therefore, the number of candidates for you to choose from will not be 120; there might be 1,000 or 2,000 candidates in all." "It is up to you. You are the owner of the ballots and the land."

I am very happy to be with you and to see you all again after having been separated from you for many years. Now I even have great grandchildren who recognize and greet me. I am very happy.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the construction of the school. Education and public health are very important. "If the nation is not healthy, we cannot build and develop the nation at the speed we want to. However, it will also not do if we have good health but lack knowledge." During the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's former political party] era, we had various levels of education from the primary level to secondary to higher education and universities.

The Angkor era was glorious because there were many engineers, architects, technicians, and scientists. We had many specialists to deal with the water policy. "This is why the slogans of the CPP are very apt" with references

made to the Angkor motherland saying that Angkor was prosperous because the youths and people were educated. "For this reason, Sangkum Reas Niyum, and now the CPP, hold that public health and education are most important sectors for our nation and youth, because youths are our nation's future." Therefore our assistance to youths and the people in areas such as public health is very good.

"For this reason I am very grateful to the CPP and the State of Cambodia's Government for their contributions, and also to those kind persons, male and female, who have contributed material and money toward building this school." "H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, on behalf of the State of Cambodia and the CPP, has asked me to inform you that on the auspicious occasion of the prince father's visit to Svay Rieng Province, he will be bringing seven millions riel to add to the contribution for the construction of another school." There is another building to be completed.

As for me, I wholeheartedly contribute a small amount of 500 U.S. dollars for school equipment. Thank you.

May the Buddhist triple jewel look after H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and his wife, government officials, and those in the CPP. Their Excellencies representatives of major powers and great friends of our country, diplomats, and the ladies and gentlemen representing international organizations, and all the children, civilian and military, may you enjoy all the blessings. Thank you very much. Our French friends, along with a group of Cambodians from southern France, came to see me at the royal palace and brought water pumps which I now present to you. Thank you very much.

Phnom Penh Releases 91 Political Prisoners

BK0703164492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 7 (AFP)—Ninety-one men and women believed to be among the Phnom Penh Government's last political prisoners walked to freedom Saturday with the blessing of two Buddhist monks and Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The release was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) under the terms of the October Paris peace treaty, which calls for political freedom in Cambodia so fair elections can be held.

"We haven't seen all the detention centers yet so we can't say with certainty that they are the last, but they are certainly among the last," ICRC delegate Jean-Jacques Fresard said.

Phnom Penh has freed 569 political prisoners since it began cooperating with the ICRC in mid-January and says about 80 due to be released from two provincial prisons this month are the last it holds.

The two non-communist guerrilla factions have freed all their political prisoners but the Khmer Rouge have not

yet allow the ICRC access to zones they control in western Cambodia, Fresard said.

Sihanouk, who has used his post as head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council to press for political freedom, greeted the 88 men and three women with a ceremony in an airy pavilion at the Royal Palace which must have contrasted sharply with the cells where they slept the previous night.

"We've stopped fighting now, you don't need to worry. Before, there were a lot of problems but we all love each other now," he said.

"I'm the neutral head of state—I don't belong to any party. But you have the right to belong to any party you want to," he said as Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong looked on.

Senior diplomats from the United States, France, the Soviet Union, China, Britain, Japan, North Korea and India as well as United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia Chief Ataul Karim witnessed the ceremony, as did two aged Buddhist monks who blessed Sihanouk as the former prisoners bowed their heads.

Representatives of the two non-communist factions were present but notable for the absence were the Khmer Rouge.

"Seventy of the 91 prisoners were Khmer Rouge but surprisingly the Khmer Rouge did not send anyone to greet them," Sihanouk told AFP afterwards.

"I think the Khmer Rouge are aware that even if they were Khmer Rouge, they don't want to be anymore."

The prisoners bowed and many tried to kiss Sihanouk's hands as he handed out gifts of a traditional Khmer scarf, sarong and towel to each.

Fresard said only that the prisoners represented a mix of all the parties.

After the ceremony, the ex-prisoners grouped around officials from the Sihanoukist party FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] who collected names of those who wanted to be transported back to "liberated zones" controlled by the resistance in western Cambodia and those who planned to stay with relatives in areas controlled by Phnom Penh.

Several said they planned to resume political activity.

"I've lost a lot of time. It's very late for me," said Chhim Sok Reth, who said he served as a major in the Army of U.S.-backed premier Lon Nol in the early 1970s and at one point managed a bicycle-tire factory.

Chhim Sok Reth said he was arrested for his political activity on August 1, 1979, eight months after Vietnamese troops invaded Cambodia and installed the current government in Phnom Penh.

"I was against the Phnom Penh Government because I was against communists and I did not like the Vietnamese troops in Cambodia," he said, adding that he planned to work for "liberal democracy" as a member of FUNCINPEC.

Chhim Sok Reth said he spent 12 years in Cambodian prisons and seven months in a prison in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Asked about his treatment, he looked pointedly at a uniformed Phnom Penh police officer and shuddered.

"It was hard," he said.

The peace treaty calls for a massive United Nations presence in Cambodia to ensure that free elections can be held by May 1993.

All factions have pledged to support the plan, but the best-known Phnom Penh dissident, former Transport Minister Oung Phan, was wounded by gunmen earlier this year after he was freed from prison and announced he would resume political activity.

Sihanouk Addresses Prisoners

*BK0903024192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
8 Mar 92*

[Speech by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian SNC, Supreme National Council, at ceremony to release 91 political prisoners in Phnom Penh on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] First of all, most revered greetings to the two supreme patriarchs for graciously honoring this occasion. Greetings to (?Their Excellencies) from the Interior Ministry, His Excellency [H.E.] (?General), and Their Excellencies lofty representatives of the State of Cambodia, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. Greetings to all foreign friends, particularly Their Excellencies ambassadors great friends of Cambodia, and other excellency diplomats, and in particular H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard, [words indistinct], for the most generous program for our Cambodian people, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Greetings to compatriots and children, members of the Armed Forces and police force of the State of Cambodia. Greetings to the local and foreign radio and television teams.

First of all, I would like to express my great and moving joy at being able to again preside over the ceremony to grant freedom to my children, those who live near the royal palace. Over 90 of you have received full freedom permanently as citizens of independent Cambodia with (?unity and security). I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the three excellencies chairmen of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of

Cambodia's Government, namely H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Heng Samrin. Great thanks also to H.E. Deputy Minister of the Interior Ministry [Krasueng Maha Phthey] for his good faith efforts to abide by the (?order) of Their Excellencies Chairmen Chea Sim, Hun Sen, and Heng Samrin, to assist the prince father enabling him to be successful in solving the issue concerning the release of compatriots who have been imprisoned for either political or war reasons. The efforts of (?their excellencies) have achieved good results along with those H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard, the representative of the ICRC, who have made efforts day and night to cooperate with the State of Cambodia and H.E. General Deputy Interior Minister. I would like to thank all of you [words indistinct] ICRC, with H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard as lofty representative whose kind heart is to help our Cambodia to solve problems with 100 percent success.

Concerning the release of compatriots, I am fortunate [words indistinct] 14 November 1991 meet all of you, in various groups, who have been granted freedom as citizens of independent Cambodia. I am very moved to preside over this release. It is a fine opportunity for me. I have met with you, children, many times in the capital and the provinces I visited. It is a good occasion to release those who have been imprisoned.

This release has (?taken some time) because remaining issues have to be solved. Compatriots have to be assembled. This is why over 90 of you are here. This is partly due to the month-long research before the problem of getting all of you to meet me could be solved. In this effort to assemble you, I have expressed the wish that I do not want you to (?wait) long. Thus, if there are a few to be released here and there, I asked the State of Cambodia and the CPP to assemble you and get you quickly to the royal palace so that you can be immediately released. Because you love me, you say if I can come to preside over the ceremony to release you, you are willing to wait for days. But I understand your suffering and your problems. You know you will get your freedom again and you want to be released quickly. So I asked that you be assembled, and as soon as this is done, come to see me after which you can very quickly go home and be reunited with friends and families. [applause] Thus, thanks to Their Excellencies leaders of the CPP and the State of Cambodia for fulfilling your desire and wasting no time. As soon as problems have been solved, H.E. General has assembled you and brought you to see me; no time has been wasted. Thus, I would like to express great thanks with warm admiration and also to H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard for his assistance in solving this problem quickly.

Now I would like to salute all my beloved children here. I am very happy to have met you, male and female. This place is called Phouchani [name of one the buildings in the royal palace compound]. I am happy to meet you here. I welcome all of you. I would like to inform you that from now on, you would be comforted; you should not have any worries. You have now become full citizens with good character. There is no obstacle. You will no

longer be punished. Previously, there was conflict and war. That is why there is this problem. As you know, soldiers and politicians have been imprisoned by different sides. Imprisonment takes place in all regions in Cambodia which has been suffering for over two decades.

However, as we are Cambodians, we have been able to unite. There is no longer any quarrel; we have stopped fighting. The four parties have declared on 21 June 1991 under my chairmanship that they will unite. We have said this [words indistinct] Cambodian nationalists; we are reconciled, we no longer fight, we consider one another as brothers inside one big family like in the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's former political party] era when I was in power in the 50's and 60's. Therefore, beloved children, please be informed that from now on you will be in comfort because there was an agreement in Paris between the international community, the United Nations, and our Cambodia.

The four Cambodian parties signed in Paris, capital of the French Republic, a peace agreement on 23 October 1991 guaranteeing you peace, security, and full freedom. This agreement is very important and of historical significance because it is directly assisted by the United Nations; the representative of the UN secretary general, H.E. Akashi, will be here in mid-March. He will be with us and assist you. Before UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] arrives, there is UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], a small organization representing the United Nations headed by the outstanding H.E. Ataul Karim who has made efforts to help us night and day since I arrived. When I arrived in Phnom Penh, UNAMIC was here already before me. It has made efforts to assist all of you.

Thus I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks and warm admiration to H.E. Ataul and the entire UNAMIC who are coming to assist Cambodia to live again with freedom and independence. Thanks to the representatives of the five major powers, permanent members of the UN Security Council, and H.E. representative of Indonesia, cochairman of the Paris conference, for their active efforts to assist us to maintain stability and peace for our Cambodian nation.

I have already expressed admiration and thanks to the State of Cambodia and the CPP. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children in all the parties for their efforts to assist me in solving the problem in accordance with the fine mandate of the Paris conference and the 23 October 1991 agreement.

Thanks to our clergy in and out of the country. The supreme patriarch is here; he came from abroad to assist us everywhere and gather international opinion to help Cambodia recover peace, freedom, and reconciliation. The time has arrived, children, for peace to be restored with great assistance from the supreme patriarch to solve this issue in accordance with Buddhism, which teaches us to love one another in peace, be tolerant, and avoid

revenge. We should avoid revenge because if it is carried out, we will harbor grudges and continue quarrelling; there would be no peace in our country and we could even go back to fighting. War is a great danger for you. You know how difficult it is during the war.

Now we have independence; we should unite and rebuild and develop our nation and catch up with time to not be ashamed because we used to be civilized. From the Angkor era to that of the Sangkum Reas Niyum, we united and built and developed our nation. We have to do this again. Thus, I trust that all of you, from all parties and every sector, will have nationalist conscience. I have no doubt about your nationalism; however this should be along the correct path, the one I have just told you. This path is also clearly stated in the Paris agreement.

Thus, I would like to tell you that there is sufficient guarantee from the United Nations. Around the middle of this month, the special representative of the UN secretary general, H.E. Akashi, will arrive. He would take measures with UNTAC—the transitional authority which will organize things in Cambodia to ensure security and peace for all of you regardless of social status, party, or group. Everyone is equal with equal freedom and rights in accordance with multiparty liberal democracy, namely full freedom and respect for human rights. In other words, multiparty means this. If you want to join any party, it is correct and alright. You have the right to do so according to your belief and desire. Or you can remain independent and not belong to any party. It is up to you. Each person has the right to decide as he wishes.

Concerning your work, I would like to inform you that now I am back in the country—I am 80 years old now—I will not hold power anymore. I refuse to do so. I will not be in charge of the government and the administration. I have no police, no Army. I am the neutral head of state, serving as a shade for all children. If there is any political crisis or danger to the nation, I will intervene to salvage the (?nation). Like the way it is now, since I came, I work night and day to maintain peace, stability, human rights, and independence for you and avoid danger to our nation. However, I would like to specify that I do not have a government, administration, police, or army. I am the neutral head of Cambodia. Therefore, I am above parties. I do not join any parties.

You need to get freedom. Once you get this, it does not mean that your life will be easy. You should be aware that you do have freedom but have to work for a living. Some of you might choose to work in the economic, agricultural, or industrial sectors depending on your capability and on the level of training you receive from our friends and the United Nations who are coming to help us. Or you might want to go back to your previous leaders from whom you used to receive assistance. For example those from FUNCINPEC; those who were released previously were received by FUNCINPEC which provides assistance to them. If you want to return to the FUNCINPEC zone, the ICRC will assist you and

take you there. The State of Cambodia will provide trucks to take you to the border and accompany you to the FUNCINPEC zone.

There are representatives from H.E. Samdech Son Sann, the KPNLF, who are here today to receive you if you used to be with the KPNLF. It is their duty to assist you. If you want to return to the zone of your original movement, you would be assisted in that direction. For those of you who want to stay with families somewhere in the State of Cambodia, I have already made recommendations to the State of Cambodia. If you want to join your families in any province or town, the State of Cambodia will assist you according to your wishes.

I am sorry I have no budget; and I do not want to receive (?outside) assistance so that I remain independent and make decisions freely. I have to be independent. This is why I do not want any party to feed or assist me. For this reason, I am sorry that whenever I preside over your release I have only small presents for you to take home while you do not have any jobs or money yet. You will receive clothing for immediate use, including a towel, a scarf, and sarong [lower garment worn by Cambodian men and women]. I do not have any money to assist you. I am sorry.

Talking about children, I have eight million children throughout Cambodia. I am the father of all of them. I therefore provide symbolic assistance, evidence of my sincerity to you. [words indistinct] build schools or other things, I contribute some funds for the benefit of youth, religion, and the people who need to contact various ministries, such as public health, education, religious affairs, and so on.

I do work to get humanitarian aid for you from abroad. But I will not receive it directly. When it arrives, I get others to distribute it directly to the people, or hand it over to all the parties for distribution to you, for example aid from great foreign friends in the form of rice, paddy, clothing, and medicine. I hand it over to representatives of all the parties for distribution. Sometimes the aid comes in the form of ambulances which I immediately pass on. I have nothing to do with it.

Therefore, I thank you all very much for coming to see me. I would just like to remind you, first, that you now have freedom. If you behave yourselves, you should not worry about anything else. No more politics, no more war, no more guilt. You are fully free and rightful citizens of our independent Cambodia. Second, concerning decisions on your daily life, where to live and with who, or how to earn a living, you are the one to decide. Please rely on parties which you like. Each party should take care of you.

I very much regret the fact that the children from the Democratic Kampuchea side were not met by representatives from Democratic Kampuchea, which did not send representatives, like other parties. I regret this. For instance, in some places, like Kompong Speu the other

day, the majority of the children were from the Democratic Kampuchea side but there were no representatives to meet them. I very much regret the fact they were not met by their representatives; FUNCINPEC thus provided them with assistance.

So, this is for your information. If you want your previous leaders to receive and assist you, you have the freedom to do so. If on the other hand you think that the previous leaders caused troubles for you and do not want to go back to them, then it is up to you. It is all up to you. I do not want to interfere in your life. But as my children, I love and miss you. It is with this sentiment that I pray that the Buddhist triple jewel look after you in your lives and enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. Thank you. [applause]

Sihanouk: Khmer Rouge 'Deliberately Stalling'

BK0703134892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 7 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk accused the Khmer Rouge Saturday of deliberately stalling the Cambodian peace process by creating "artificial difficulties" over housing in Phnom Penh.

He urged the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to respond by deploying rapidly and putting the Khmer Rouge's "backs to the wall."

The prince, speaking to diplomats and an AFP journalist assembled to witness the release of 81 political prisoners, said U.N. officials trying to prepare for UNTAC's arrival were also having problems in Khmer Rouge zones.

"All the problems are created by them. If there were no Khmer Rouge there would be no problems. You wouldn't even need UNTAC," he said of the huge civilian-military force due to deploy here March 15.

It was the first time Sihanouk has directly accused his former resistance allies of deliberately hindering implementation of the peace treaty they co-signed October 23 in Paris. The prince is chairman of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a reconciliation body grouping all four Cambodian factions.

Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge representatives had disobeyed his direct order to move out of the building that has been designated as UNTAC's headquarters, even though UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi was due here in one week.

"When I visited Pailin (a Khmer Rouge stronghold in western Cambodia) they told me with a big smile: 'Mr. Akashi will have to go to the Cambodiana (Hotel) and stay there'," Sihanouk said.

"They are creating artificial problems," he said of the Khmer Rouge.

"I see very clearly their maneuver. They stay at the headquarters to discourage Mr. Akashi from coming and to delay the arrival of UNTAC."

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan will come to Phnom Penh on Monday to discuss the problem, Sihanouk said. "I think I'll have a difficult conversation with him."

Khieu Samphan, head of state during the Khmer Rouge's genocidal 1975-1979 rule over Cambodia, had to flee Phnom Penh just hours after his arrival on November 27 when he was attacked by a lynch mob.

Since their return the following month, Khmer Rouge representatives to the SNC have been lodged in the building that has been designated UNTAC headquarters, while they await completion of their own building next to the south wall of the palace.

"I don't like the Khmer Rouge but I think you have to put their backs to the wall," Prince Sihanouk said, playing on words as he explained why he had agreed to have as neighbors a radical communist faction that has been accused of killing close to one million Cambodians.

A range of international organizations including the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which arranged Saturday's release of Phnom Penh government prisoners, have accused the Khmer Rouge recently of not cooperating with efforts to implement the peace process.

Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge had been publicly expressing its support for the peace plan, which calls for the disarming of all four factions, while privately hoping its 1.9 billion dollar budget would never be approved by the U.N.

"They will do their worst—I won't say best—to delay the coming of UNTAC and Mr. Akashi. But we have the means to hold them—by deploying UNTAC as quickly as possible."

The Khmer Rouge officials refuse to move until their house is completed for security reasons, Sihanouk said.

"I told them to go to the Cambodiana," he said of the luxury hotel where Khmer Rouge officials have been seen wining and dining.

"There they'll have international guarantees. They'll be protected by the diplomats, the cocktail parties—even the band and the cabaret dancers will protect them."

Establishment of Border Checkpoints Urged

BK0703032792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Setting Up Control Posts at the Right Places and Being Effective in Implementing the Agreement to End Vietnam's War of Aggression in Cambodia"]

[Text] The most important role of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] in supervising and ending Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia is to cooperate with the Supreme National Council [SNC] to:

1. Ensure that all kinds of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and absolutely prevent these Vietnamese forces and weapons from returning to Cambodia; and
2. Disarm and dissolve all Cambodian parties' troops.

To resolve these two key issues—also the key to implementing the Paris peace agreement fully—it is necessary to ensure that all Vietnamese are out of Cambodia. This can be done only when UNTAC cooperates with the quadripartite SNC and sets up checking posts in western and eastern Cambodia, particularly at border passes from Vietnam to Cambodia, from Ratanakiri to Kampot. These points are: Bar Kev, Stung Treng, Snuol, Kratie, Krek, Kompong Cham, Bavet, Neak Luong, K'am Samnar, Prey Chrey, Phnum Den, Lork, Takeo, Kompong Trach, Kompong Som, and so on.

Once the issue of Vietnamese pullout has been resolved, the issue of the four Cambodian parties' forces would be automatically solved because the Cambodian people need to live in peace and independence. The Cambodian resistance fights to chase the Vietnamese out of Cambodia; the majority of Cambodians have been forced at gunpoint to work. Only when UNTAC and the SNC make efforts to implement the agreement making checks at the right places can Cambodia have peace, security with independence.

Vietnamese Soldiers Brought to Koh Kong

BK0803013292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] On the night of 20 February, the Vietnamese brought 200 Vietnamese soldiers by ship to join with Vietnamese forces in Andong Toek and Thmar Sar villages in Botumsakor District, Koh Kong Province. These new Vietnamese troops arrived at their positions along Prek Ta Ok at 2330 [1630 GMT].

These Vietnamese forces are attacking the resistance forces, plundering, and killing our people day and night because no one is checking them. Therefore, it is necessary for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to have sufficient staff [words indistinct] quickly in Koh Kong Province.

Reportage on Alleged SRV Aggression, Killing

Deaths Noted in Kampot 28 Feb

BK0903024892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Excerpt] On 28 February the Vietnamese aggressors stationed in Chhuk District, Kampot Province robbed

our people in Sdok Thmei in Lbaeuk Commune, seizing some gold, 40,000 riel, a tape recorder, three pigs, and a quantity of utensils. The Vietnamese aggressors killed two families of our people, including five children. [passage omitted]

Fighting in Kampot 2-3 Mar

BK0903003092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Our Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia radio has received reports from Kampot Province that on 2 and 3 March Vietnamese aggressor forces, Phnom Penh's Kampot and Takeo provincial troops, and units from the capital—totalling 1,400 men and backed by 105-mm artillery pieces and multiple rockets—launched offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces to kill our people in Lbaeuk Commune, Chhuk District, Kampot Province.

Under such circumstances our people in Lbaeuk Commune are not remaining idle and letting the Vietnamese aggressors kill them at will. Our people have united to vigorously oppose the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side to defend themselves and rout the attackers. While retreating, the Vietnamese aggressors fired hundreds of artillery shells and multiple rockets—burning houses, killing cattle, and damaging a lot of our people's crops. [passage omitted]

Attacks in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom

BK0703064592 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0412 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 7—The Khmer Rouge launched new attacks on the government positions in the northwestern Province of Siem Reap killing one civilian and wounding two others.

According to the provincial military source, the Khmer Rouge fired 97 artillery shells into government positions in the districts of Chikreng, Kralanh, Svay Loeu and Puok between February 26 and March 2.

The sources said one civilian in Chikreng District was killed and two others wounded during February 26 and 28 attacks on areas in Kouk Thlork Leou and Pongro Kraom communes.

The Khmer Rouge subsequently violated the Paris peace accords ending the 23 years old of war in the country.

The most serious attacks were happened in a central province of Kompong Thom caused thousands of families. [sentence as received]

In another incident, the Khmer Rouge were responsible in the February 27 attack on a U.N. helicopter [which] flew over the zone controlled by the Khmer Rouge and the FUNCINPEC [National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] during

which Lieutenant Colonel Russell Stuart, commander of the Australian U.N. contingent, was wounded.

Indonesia

Navy Patrol Confirms Sighting of 'Peace Boat'

BK0703154492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso is expected to arrive in Darwin, the capital of Australia's Northern Territory, at 1930 West Indonesian Standard Time tomorrow. A press release issued today by the Information Service of the Republic of Indonesia's Eastern Fleet corrected yesterday's press release which stated that the ferry would arrive in Dili on Sunday at 1930 Central Indonesian Standard Time.

Lieutenant Colonel Toto Sunyoto, head of the Information Service of the Republic of Indonesia's Eastern Fleet, said that Indonesian Navy aircraft detected the ship during a maritime patrol on Friday at 1330 [time not further specified]. The Lusitania Expresso, which is believed to be conducting a political provocation, was sighted about 60 miles to the south of Roti Island, East Nusatenggara. The ferry was sailing at a speed of 10 knots per hour. Indonesian Navy patrol units using various facilities are on full alert in their respective positions.

Naval Force To Turn Away Ship

BK0603152992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1435 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Dili, Mar. 06 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the East Timor Military Operation Command Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei expressed confidence that the Portuguese ferry would not be able to penetrate Indonesian naval task forces which would be mobilized to anticipate its entry into East Timor waters.

The so-called peace boat is reported to carry about 100 students and Portuguese journalists to lay wreaths on the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, scene of the November 12 incident.

Even if some of them could get through from the ambush of the naval forces, no one would be able to reach the destination to lay wreaths on the cemetery, he told reporters on Friday.

The commander said he did not know exactly the strategy to be applied by the naval guards in handling the Portuguese ship which he described as trying to sow seeds of provocation, but pointed out that everything has been calculated.

In response to [Lusitania] Expresso's insistence on entering Indonesian waters, Syafei said the Indonesian people firmly reject it because it is a matter of sovereignty.

If we are not firm in rejecting it, such a thing would be repeated in the future, which would give an impression that we are a weak nation, he added.

He ruled out the possibility of the ship to call at East Timor port.

The one-star general also said that [words indistinct] mounting security checks on car passengers entering Dili as a preventive measure.

We do not want villagers to flock to the city for a mass gathering, Syafei said, adding that a group of people had tried to hold illegal meetings in order to form a committee to welcome Lusitania Expresso.

Security officers have detained four people, including a village head, who are suspected of organizing the meeting.

He said preventive measures continued to be taken in the city border even though the situation in Dili remained calm and normal.

According to Syafei, East Timor Bishop Carlos Belo and security officials in the province share a similar view that the planned visit of Lusitania Expresso would only disturb security and it is not a peace mission.

The East Timor Operation commander said Portugal needed to reconsider sending the ship to East Timor because it would only disturb the Indonesian people who need secure feeling in the current fasting month.

Ship Officials Comment

BK0703081292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0706 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Darwin (Northern Territory), Mar 7 (OANA-ANTARA)—Lusitania Expresso, the Portuguese ferry which is planning to go to East Timor on a self-proclaimed peace mission, is expected to arrive in Darwin here on Sunday at 1600 local time.

Expresso, which will berth at Stokes Hill wharf, Darwin, in the latest contact reported that its position was around 500 nautical miles west of the Port City of Northern Australia, Riris Irawati, ANTARA's correspondent reported from Darwin Saturday.

The Portuguese ferry's passengers—mostly journalists and students—plan to lay a wreath on Santa Cruz Cemetery, Dili, to commemorate the November 12 incident in the capital city of East Timor last year.

The Indonesian Government sees the Expresso plan as a provocation. Indonesia's view has lately received support in Australia including from Northern Territory Senator Grant Tambling and Chief Minister Marshall Perron.

Luis Dos Santos, the captain of Lusitania Expresso, said that he would ask for permission to enter East Timor, and if his request was refused he would return to Darwin.

A spokesman of the ferry, Antonio Pavara, earlier said "If the Indonesian Government orders us to stop, we will do so."

Expresso in principle is a merchant ship, not a warship, so it would follow the order if it is asked to return, according to Dos Santos.

The ferry which is 73 meters long, has been reported to have a budget amounting to at least 1.5 million Australian dollars.

Around 120 people including students are now waiting in Darwin to join the journey to Dili, according to a local newspaper, the Northern Territory News.

They represent no less than 22 countries including the Netherlands, Denmark and Canada—three countries suspending their assistance to Indonesia following the November 12 incident.

If Lusitania Expresso proceeds with its plan to sail to Dili, it will need at least one day for making various preparations including the loading [of] logistics and fuel.

Journalists Need Permit

BK0803124092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign or Indonesian journalists working for foreign news agencies who want to cover the arrival of the Portuguese ferry Lusitania Expresso in East Timor waters must first obtain special permit from the Department of Information. Speaking in Dili, Amir Ali Nasution, chief of the East Timor Regional Information Office, said that those without such a permit will be refused entry into the province.

Foreign journalists who want to cover the event will have identification checks at three ports of entry, namely at Ngurah Rai Airport in Denpasar, El Tarik Airport in Kupang, and Komoro Airport in Dili. He stressed that foreign nationals or Indonesian nationals who are not journalists will face stern action if they do journalistic work without obtaining permits from the Department of Information first.

Dili Suspects To Be Tried in Jakarta Court

BK0603072492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0619 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 6 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Jakarta High Public Prosecution Office B.T.P Siregar said, at least five cases, relating to the November 12 incident in Dili, during which 50 persons were killed, will be taken to the Central Jakarta Court soon.

Speaking to the press here recently, Siregar said that the five cases would include two subversion cases or special criminal cases and three general criminal cases.

According to Siregar, the subversion cases concerned [all initials] FDA (30) and JFDC (35), and the general

criminal cases concerned AC, TB, and V. He said FDA and JFDC were those who organized and led the mass to join a demonstration in the capital city of East Timor, the youngest Indonesian province. The accused are liable to capital punishment.

Answering a question about the 17 persons being held in custody in Jakarta relating to the incident, he said that some of them have been released.

Commander Describes East Timor Political Life

BK0903134492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1138 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Text] Dili, Mar 9 (OANA/ANTARA)—East Timor's Military Operation Executive Commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei said East Timor's political life is still coloured with the old political party system so it has become everybody's responsibility to improve the people's political mindedness.

The commander made the remark in a written message read out by his Deputy Colonel (infantry) Duniya to the 19th anniversary of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) held here over the weekend.

The development of the political field in this region must be tailored to the omission of the old party system and the growth of a political culture, which has been accepted by the Indonesian nation, the message suggested.

Theo Syafei appealed PDI as a socio-political organization to have the capacity to improve the quality and concurrently cultivate national stability, which is the basic capital for development.

The one-star general rated the security of East Timor as gaining in stability and under control and as such enabling the people to lead a peaceful life.

The Armed Forces in its efforts to improve the people's living standard in this Indonesia's youngest province have launched territorial operations and for the last three years have managed to provide positive impacts to the local people's existence, he said.

The message voiced the expectation that the PDI in conformity with its portion would act parallelly [as received]] with the Armed Forces' activities by integrating themselves with the local people's life in the effort to overcome troubles and constraints being faced at.

East Timor Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao in a written message read out by Sociopolitical Directorate Head J. Manurung hoped that PDI would have the ability to enhance the Indonesian democratic image in the people's social life, especially so in the face of the forthcoming 1992 elections.

The PDI's commemoration was also attended by PDI General Chairman Suryadi and thousands of the party's supporters hailing from the 13 districts of the province.

850 Military Personnel Leave for Cambodia

BK0603084492 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Eight hundred and fifty members of the Garuda XII peace contingent have left Mojokerto, East Java, for Cambodia as part of the UN peacekeeping force. Speaking to newsmen following the military parade, Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Erwin Suyono, commander of Battalion 503 of the Army Strategic Reserve Command, said that, as members of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, they were required to maintain the reputation of their corps and the Indonesian nation on the international stage. The 850 personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, consisting of officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers in five companies will perform their duties along with 22,000 military, police, and civilian personnel of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] for 15 months.

According to Vice Admiral Sudibyo Raharjo, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, although the Garuda XII contingent is scheduled to perform their duties in Cambodia for 15 months, they will extend their presence if so requested by the UN Security Council. The UNTAC peacekeeping force in Cambodia has 15,900 armed personnel, including 10,200 infantrymen, an air force unit, and a naval unit from various countries.

Laos

U.S. Official Visits, Discusses MIA Issue

BK0603152392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] On the evening of 5 March, Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, arrived in Laos for a visit. He was welcomed by Souban Salitthilat, Lao deputy foreign affairs minister. At 1700, Solomon called on Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon. At the meeting, the host and the guest held a conversation regarding the relations between the two countries and assessed that bilateral relations have made progress to the point that ties will be elevated to the ambassadorial level. The U.S. side informed the prime minister of a U.S. program to give aid to victims of drought in our country by providing 4,000 metric tons of rice and U.S. \$500,000 to Laos. The U.S. guest expressed satisfaction with the Lao side's cooperation in searching for the remains of U.S. MIA's and in narcotic issues. The host and the guest expressed hope that in the future, cooperation (in other matters) will be restored and further developed.

This morning at the reception room of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, received a courtesy call by Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Phoun Sipaseut

expressed the view that relations between Laos and the United States have smoothly developed in the recent past. In the near future, these relations will be elevated from the charge d'affaires level to the ambassadorial level.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the joint cooperation in searching for the remains of U.S. MIA's in Laos and in narcotic control and suppression. The Lao Government has rendered good cooperation to the U.S. Government in carrying out these operations. At the same time, the host and the guest also expressed hope that in the future, relations and cooperation in other fields will be gradually developed and strengthened.

On the same afternoon, Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense and security minister, also received Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Before calling on the Lao Government leaders this morning, Solomon held talks with his Lao counterpart, Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister. The two sides consulted with each other on aspects of the relations between the two countries in the future after the level of these relations has been elevated. The two sides expressed views on various issues dealing with their mutual cooperation in solving the questions of U.S. MIA's and in narcotics suppression, as well as U.S. humanitarian aid to Laos and other issues that will help improve relations and mutual understanding between the two countries.

New Thai, Lao Border Committees Meet 5 Mar

BK0703125492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Border Security Maintenance Committees held their first meeting at Tha Deua in Hatsaifong District, Municipality, yesterday afternoon. Leading the Lao side during the meeting, was Colonel Phommachak Souththisan, head of the Lao-Thai Border Security Maintenance Committee, and the Thai side by Col (Samroeng Chanthalekha), head of the Thai-Lao Border Security Maintenance Committee. Officials of the two countries also attended the meeting, which was hosted by the Lao side.

The two sides, during a meeting in February, agreed that both sides will take turns hosting monthly meetings of the committee in their respective provinces along the common border.

The two sides exchanged namelists of members of their committees. The Lao side proposed that joint meetings at the provincial level be held to solve problems which may arise along the common border of the two countries. The Thai side proposed that both sides jointly inspect the withdrawal of troops of the two countries from border areas, especially the area between Na Banoi Canton of Boten District, Sayaboury Province of Laos and Chat Trakan District of Thailand's Phitsanulok

Province in accordance with the earlier agreement. Both sides accepted the proposals for further consideration and actions.

Memorandum Signed on Drug Control Meeting

BK0703140192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The tripartite meeting of Laos, Myanmar [Burma], and the United Nations International Drug Abuse Control Program [UNDCP] was held in Vientiane from 2 to 6 March with success. The meeting's memorandum was signed by the three sides on the morning of 6 March.

The document assesses the progress of cooperation among agencies concerned and cooperation between Laos and Myanmar in narcotics control and suppression since 1990. The three sides unanimously agreed with the implementation of socioeconomic development programs along the common border areas of the two countries. This is to suppress drug trafficking, the trade of chemicals used for heroin production, and to eliminate opium poppy cultivation along the border areas eventually. Such programs are also designed to improve the people's livelihood.

The memorandum also highlighted UNDCP cooperation in support of Laos' and Myanmar's endeavors to prevent and eliminate drug trafficking and opium cultivation along their border areas. The UNDCP will raise the necessary funds and send technical advisors to facilitate the transition away from opium poppy cultivation in both countries.

Signing the memorandum were Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister and chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision, for the Lao side; U. Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs of Myanmar and vice chairman of the Central Committee for Narcotics Control, for the Myanmar side; and William Beachner, the UNDCP representative.

Philippines

Kidnappers Identified as 'Red Scorpion Group'

HK0903015292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] The Red Scorpion Group [RSG] has threatened to disclose irregularities involving the Philippine Geothermal Incorporated's [PGI] business if negotiators for the release of American executive Michael Barnes do not hand over the \$20 million being demanded as ransom. Several Philippine National Police investigators at Camp Crame have reached this conclusion. Among the supposed irregularities which the RSG has threatened to reveal are the alleged conflict between the PGI and the Aquino government over exploitation of the country's natural resources. The main scandal involves exploitation by the PGI of geothermal resources in Tiwi, Albay.

This supposedly involved contracts signed by the PGI which will allow it to engage in activities detrimental to the country.

The leader of the RSG is reported to be a millionaire. Documents captured by the police say Alfredo de Leon is the owner of five large business establishments, 12 luxury cars, and sophisticated communications equipment. The military says De Leon, alias Joey, is the head of the RSG which has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Barnes on 17 January. De Leon was arrested on 11 November in connection with the kidnapping and murder of the child of a wealthy family in Bacolod City. However he escaped from detention at the Criminal Investigation Service Command in Camp Crame. There are no reports on whether the police confiscated De Leon's assets after his escape.

The RSG has announced that it has no connections with the military or the New People's Army, claiming to be an independent organization utilizing revolutionary force against sectors which oppress Filipinos.

Brands Barnes 'CIA Agent'

HK0903044892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Mar 92 pp 1, 10

[By Jerry Esplanada]

[Text] A previously unknown revolutionary group yesterday owned the kidnapping of American businessman Michael Barnes but denied links with either the Armed Forces or the Communist New People's Army [NPA].

In a statement, the Red Scorpion Group [RSG] said the abduction of Barnes was the "product of a lengthy investigation of his activities as an agent of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, a charge that he has admitted."

The statement was dated March 3 but sent to the INQUIRER only yesterday. The statement was signed by Ed Resurreccion, presumably an alias.

"We are an independent organization committed to the use of revolutionary force against sectors that have long heaped oppression and exploitation on the Filipino people. Thus, multinational firms, Filipino compradors and the military establishment head our target list," said Resurreccion who identified himself as the RSG spokesman.

Barnes, 41, of Long Beach, California, was abducted Jan. 27 by at least three armed men outside his office on Gil Payat Avenue in Makati. He is vice president of both the Philippine Geothermal Inc., [PGI] a subsidiary of California-based Unocal Inc., and director of the American Chamber of Commerce.

Resurreccion said the RSG has treated Barnes "humanely, in keeping with the Geneva Convention provisions (on the treatment of war prisoners)."

The statement did not mention any ransom demand. Police reported earlier that the kidnappers had demanded a \$20-million ransom from PGI in exchange for Barnes' release.

In the statement, Resurreccion accused the military and "supposed friends" of Barnes of "insincerity in negotiations."

Resurreccion urged the Barnes family to "bring in a neutral, reliable and trustworthy mediator" to speed up the release of the American businessman.

In the statement, Resurreccion denied reports that the RSG had links with either the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the New People's Army.

Top military and police officials have insisted that Barnes was abducted by communist rebels out to raise funds and frighten off investors.

This was, however, denied by the Alex Boncayao Brigade [ABB], the NPA guerilla unit operating in Metro Manila.

Sergio Romero, ABB spokesman, told newsmen in a clandestine interview that the kidnapping was carried out by Alfredo de Leon, an alleged military informer who had been purged from the NPA ranks last year for "dubious activities," including unauthorized bank robberies.

De Leon was arrested last Nov. 7 for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of Chinese-Filipino businessmen. He mysteriously escaped after nearly two weeks of detention at the Criminal Investigation Service Command.

Romero said De Leon had been allowed to escape. He said two officers—a major and a lieutenant colonel—were protecting De Leon.

But Gerardo Flores, Philippine National Police deputy director general, said Romero was not privy to the Barnes' kidnapping. Flores said the "highly classified operation" was carried out by a special unit of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Flores said the unit headed by De Leon operated independently and did not coordinate with regional NPA units such as the ABB.

The RSG statement came less than a week after an INQUIRER reporter saw video footage showing Barnes alive. A white flag with a red scorpion appeared on the background of the footage which the kidnappers had sent to the Barnes family on Jan. 23.

The military claims the red scorpion emblem was similar to that used by the ABB during clandestine press conferences.

But INQUIRER reporters, who had attended such news conferences, said the NPA guerilla unit uses a red flag with a triangle enclosing the letters "ABB."

Resurreccion said the RSG "places prime importance on exacting retribution from mammoth foreign corporations in the country."

"It is high time to hammer in the lesson that unfair trade practices—abetted by slavish government officials—will never go unpaid," he said.

The RSG said that "some military officials with a yen for monetary rewards were themselves prolonging Barnes' captivity, and perhaps, directly putting his life in danger."

The RSG said some of Barnes' friends have stated their willingness to help facilitate his freedom but added "the actual negotiators seem to be mere pawns of the military."

"Bad faith does not lead to a satisfactory conclusion," Resurreccion said.

He urged the family of Barnes and his colleagues to dismiss the current negotiators and "bring in a neutral, reliable and trustworthy mediator."

Police Issue Report on Demands

HK0903030592 Quezon City MALAYA in English
9 Mar 92 p 1

[By Jodeal Cadacio]

[Text] The renegade communist group which kidnapped American business executive Michael Barnes may seek a prisoner's swap involving a detained communist leader if their demand for a \$20 million ransom is not met, police investigators said.

A five-page document prepared by probers at Camp Crame said the Red Scorpion Group, which had claimed responsibility for Barnes abduction, may settle for a swap in order to gain international recognition.

International exposure will help them gain the stature needed to link up with foreign terrorist networks the probers said.

"The prisoner exchange will most probably involve a detained Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [NPA] leader of national stature but minimal international media exposure," the document said.

The probers said the abductors, said to be a splinter group of the NPA, have also threatened to expose anomalous [as published] deal between the government and the Philippine Geothermal Incorporated [PGI], of which Barnes is vice president.

The document said the rebels claimed that the PGI geothermal plant in Tiwi, Albay is grossly inadventagous [as published] to the Filipino people.

The geothermal plant supplies steam to the power plant operated by Napocor [National Power Corporation]. Payments to PGI are determined by a formula based on the prices of crude oil in the world market.

The rebel group asked a PGI official for \$20 million for Barnes' release in a telephone conversation last February 3, which was taped by authorities.

When told by Chito Fernandez, the PGI official, that the demand is unrealistic, the caller said PGI can pay the ransom because lots of data in the hands of Barnes abductors clearly show PGI has the money.

Barnes, 41, of Long Beach, California was abducted January 27 [as published] by armed men outside his office in Gil Puyat Ave. in Makati.

Red Cross Asked for Help in Hostage's Release

HK0603011792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The military has asked for assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in the negotiations for the release of a former U.S. military officer kidnapped by communist rebels in Cagayan in October 1990. According to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Civil Military Relations chief, Brigadier General Emiliano Templo, the ICRD could possibly help in the negotiations for the release of the retired U.S. military officer, Arvey Duane Drown. Templo added that field commanders in Cagayan have already been given the authority to declare a cease-fire within the next 24 hours. However, he said the 72-hour cease-fire will be enforced only if the rebels agree to release Drown.

Congress May Reject Nuclear Plant Settlement

HK0703045492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Congress may reject the ongoing out-of-court settlement between the Philippines and Westinghouse Electric Corporation, after the settlement was strongly criticized by some legislators. Speaker Ramon Mitra said that although the country needs the plant's energy, the government must determine the risks involved.

Senator Jovito Salonga said the government's act for a settlement is unfair and would mean a great loss to the country. The settlement will result in Westinghouse paying \$10 million and \$90 million debt. [sentence as heard]

Congressman Raul Roco said: The Aquino government's failure to implement a comprehensive energy development program led to the government's agreement for an out-of-court settlement with Westinghouse. He also said that entering into the settlement is a clear manifestation of surrendering the national interest. Roco said that had the government prepared earlier for the controversial Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the government may have had the edge to continue the case in court. What is most embarrassing is the irresponsible way Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia Jr. took care of the Bataan nuclear settlement papers. Roco said this was the reason why the government has to enter into an illogical transaction, which is a clear sabotage of the country's economy.

Deal Needs Approval

HK0803033692 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The out-of-court settlement between the Philippines and Westinghouse Corporation is not final. This was clarified by President Corazon Aquino, following the strong opposition displayed by legislators and other sectors of society. The president stressed that the agreement cannot be implemented without Congress' approval, adding that Congress has to decide on this during her term, because if this is passed on to the next administration, the deliberation on the issue will just keep dragging on. The president stated that should Congress run out of time, the approval of the settlement can be done through a referendum.

Immigration Chief Resigns To Run for Congress

HK0703045192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Bureau of Immigration and Deportation Commissioner Andrea Domingo has resigned but will continue work until 23 April. Domingo resigned to enter political life. She said she will run as congresswoman for Pampanga's third district. Domingo said she had been thinking of running but only decided after the urgings of President Aquino and Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon. She will run under former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos' Epifanio de los Santos Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats party.

Kabisig Movement Director General Replaced

HK0803033992 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] President Aquino has appointed Pampanga Governor Bren Guiao Kabisig [Partnership] People's Movement Program director general to replace Bulacan Governor Roberto Obet Pagdanganan. The appointment of Guiao was contained in Proclamation No. 874 released by President Aquino today.

Meanwhile, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said Pagdanganan was replaced because of his failure to support the president.

In related news, Assistant Press Secretary Didi Siytangco said Pagdanganan was replaced because the president does not want him to use the Kabisig Movement in his political campaign.

Nunez's Bodyguards Reportedly Kill Cavite Mayor

HK0703045092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] One of the witnesses in the killing of Ternate, Cavite Mayor Octavio Velasco and three others, and the wounding of two municipal government employees, said the ambushers of the victims were the bodyguards of Congressman George Nunez. This was learned after two

of the witnesses to the killing, along with Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation Service [PNP-CIS] Chief Vicente Vinarao, went to the Department of Justice [DOJ] to file multiple murder and attempted murder charges against the suspects. Reynaldo Marquez and Raymundo Ranudo said they saw Policemen Armando Angge, Vivencio Angge, Marciano Ferain, Lito Calangisan, and Bernardo Pangilinan approach the mayor to talk to him. However, they immediately fired on the mayor and hit the others. The sworn affidavits filed at the DOJ by the two witnesses identified the suspects as Nunez' bodyguards. It is recalled that Velasco and Nunez had a misunderstanding before the incident occurred. This was after Velasco filed charges at the Commission on Elections against Nunez regarding the latter's act of bringing flying registrants in Ternate on 1 February.

The DOJ has asserted it will resolve the killing of Ternate Mayor Octavio Velasco and three others within 10 days. This was stated by State Prosecutor Ferdinand Abesamis following the filing by PNP-CIS Chief Vicente Vinarao of multiple and attempted murder charges against the five suspects in the ambush. Abesamis gave the suspects five days to file their counter affidavit at the DOJ.

Police Official Discloses Kidnap-for-Ransom Plan

HK0803034092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Region 3 Philippine National Police Director Pantaleon Dumlao today disclosed that communist rebels plan to kidnap major loggers and sawmill operators in Central Luzon. This came to light after a high-ranking rebel leader was arrested in Metro Manila. Dumlao said this operation was codenamed Operation Plan Kamagong [tree producing high quality wood] which aims to gather huge sums of money through kidnapping. Dumlao said that based on the New People's Army's [NPA] plan, 30 percent of the proceeds will be used at the provincial level, while 70 percent will go to the Regional Party Committee. The kidnap-for-ransom operation will be carried out by the best skilled cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA. Dumlao added that the kidnapping will be launched in Metro Manila and part of Rizal Province to confuse the authorities.

Moslem Rebel Leaders, Supporters Drown off Sabah

HK0903112492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 9 March 92

[Text] Manila, March 9 (AFP)—Thirty-four Philippine Moslem secessionist leaders and civilian supporters drowned in a boating mishap off the Malaysian state of Sabah last week, a rebel spokesman said Monday [9 March].

The 34 were among a group of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) "commanders and civilian leaders who

went to Sabah for an important meeting," MNLF spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali said on ABS-CBN television here.

Their boat was within 30 miles (48 kilometres) of the Malaysian port of Sandakan when it was sunk by high waves on Wednesday, he added.

Zain Jali said "only four of the 16 cadre officers survived."

The station, quoting military officials in the southern Philippines, said the survivors are now in Sabah.

The MNLF waged a bloody uprising for a separate Moslem state for the large Moslem minority in Mindanao and nearby southern islands in the 1970s.

Then dictator Ferdinand Marcos virtually crushed the uprising, using half the military's strength, before an Arab-backed ceasefire took effect in 1976. The government of President Corazon Aquino subsequently granted limited autonomy to the region.

MNLF units continue to operate in some parts of Mindanao, though the military says some of them have resorted to banditry.

NPA Accuses Military of 'Negligence' in Massacre

HK0603063592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Mar 92 p 6

[By Cynthia L. de Leon]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro—Tactical error and government negligence caused the big number of government casualties in the Feb 15 Marihatag ambush, the New People's Army [NPA] said in its Feb 23 statement sent to a local newspaper here.

"It took almost 24 hours before the Armed Forces retrieved the dead and counted, that's why more died from starvation, loss of blood, and infection," said the xeroxed statement signed "Migo Navarro" for one "Ka [Comrade] Elias" of the NPA Diwata Command.

"There would have been more survivors among the wounded if they had been extricated sooner and received proper medication in addition to the first aid given by our medical staff," said Navarro who the military believed directed the ambush.

Brig. Gen. Quintin Alendia, chief of the 4th Infantry Division [ID], earlier admitted there was "tactical error and lapses of discipline" on the part of the ambushed troops led by Capt. Romulo Banggay of the 23rd Infantry Battalion [IB].

The ambush cost the government 39 lives, 21 wounded and 5 hostages. Navarro admitted losing six NPAs.

The 4ID reported losing 30 M-16 armalites but was silent on the machineguns and radio sets.

The Feb 15 ambush in the NDF [National Democratic Front] area in Aras-Asan, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur was the latest in a series of encounters since Jan 23, Navarro said.

He alleged that from Jan 23 to 25, the 231B burned houses, stole work animals and crops, and bombed and strafed the village of Upper Hubo in barangay Diatagon of Lianga, Surigao del Sur.

Communist Rebels Reject Condition for Peace

HK0803033892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] has rejected the government's condition for the resumption of peace talks. CPP Chairman Jose Maria Sison said the government's condition for the movement to denounce its armed struggle kills the true spirit of the peace talks. Sison, speaking in the Netherlands, said the peace talks will not be needed if the communist movement is asked to surrender the principles they have been fighting for. He believes the government will not heed them until the movement has the strength to defeat the military. In this view, Sison stressed that the resumption of peace talks needs no cease-fire declaration.

Meanwhile, the government is prepared to hold talks with various peace advocate groups. This was announced by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa in an effort to explore every avenue toward achieving peace with all rebel groups. However, De Villa said the government's position on the peace talks with the communist rebels, which is to implement talks at the local level, remains. He reiterated that the government has not closed the door to peace talks, asserting that the government is willing to talk to multisectoral and peace advocate groups if they wish.

Thailand

Thai, Indonesian Ministers on Cambodian Refugees

BK0603133092 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Speaking at a joint news conference with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 March, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said that Thailand planned to repatriate the first batch of Cambodian refugees on 2 April. It was the first time a timetable on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand has been announced. Asa said about 10,000 Cambodian refugees would be sent home every month once the work to repair the road in the Thai-Cambodian border area had been completed, which is expected to be in April this year.

The Thai foreign minister also talked about his discussion with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Richard Solomon, who recently visited Thailand. He said the United States pledged to

provide \$600 million, or 30 percent of the total expense needed for operations by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. On this, Minister Ali Alatas said the total expense of UNTAC is estimated at about \$1,900 million. The UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly have already allocated \$200 million as budget at this initial stage. He said the money needed would come from contributions from UN members, and that some countries might even voluntarily contribute for the operations.

Cambodian Refugee Repatriation To Begin 2 Apr

BK0703041492 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The repatriation of 370,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand is planned to start on 2 April, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday. Minister Asa said at the joint press conference with his Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas that 10,000 refugees will be sent home every month. He said the agency repairing the road has been provided with assistance by the Government of Thailand, and by April the road will be completed. Mr. Asa quoted U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Mr. Solomon as saying the United States will contribute 30 percent of the cost of deploying the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, or UNTAC. Mr. Solomon said the United States felt obliged to provide 600 million U.S. dollars, Minister Asa said.

Joint Venture Opens Cambodian Farmers Bank

BK0603074692 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] A group of Thai business people led by Her Royal Highness Princess Arun Ratsami and Phot Bunyarataphan, as well as the National Bank of the State of Cambodia—the Cambodian central bank—have jointly established the Cambodia Farmers Bank in that country.

The bank was the second joint venture commercial bank between Thai investors and the Cambodian central bank. The first was the Cambodian commercial bank—a joint venture with a Thai commercial bank.

Cambodia's Temple Opened to Tourists

BK0703100392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The opening of the Preah Vihear Temple in Cambodia to foreign tourists represents the successful cooperation at the local level between Thailand and Cambodia, which will benefit tourism development in Thailand's northeastern region. Anan Anantakun, the Interior Ministry permanent secretary, yesterday told reporters the following after launching the visit by tourists to Phreah Vihear:

[Begin Anan recording] The major agreement on the temple opening concerns a regulated system for permitting tourists to visit. The Sisaket provincial administration, through the governor, sets the site for entry into Cambodian territory and a service center for tourists. All of you will have seen that tourists have been able to come freely. The first checkpoint is under the supervision of the Sisaket provincial administration. Each visitor is charged 25 baht. The second checkpoint is in Cambodian territory. There, each visitor will be charged 30 baht by the Preah Vihear Province.

The fees collected by the Sisaket provincial administration will be used to pay the per diem of security officials and will be used to improve services for tourists. What the Cambodian side does with its fees is at its own discretion.

The local Cambodian and Thai officials are commended for reaching an agreement. The Interior Ministry feels that the Preah Vihear temple opening will benefit tourism in Sisaket Province, enabling the local people to supplement their income. [end recording]

SRV Envoy Summoned Following Pirating Incident

*BK0603140792 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1230 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The Thai Foreign Ministry has summoned the Vietnamese ambassador for a meeting following the incident on 4 March during which the Vietnamese boat, Chok Sarawut, fired on the Thai Navy patrol boat, Hanhak Sattru. Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires [Nguyen Dang Qua] showed up at the ministry this afternoon.

Deputy Director General of the Information Department First Lieutenant Rawi Hongpraphat said that Thailand today told Vietnam to prevent any recurrence of such incidents for the sake of the smooth relations existing between the two countries at present.

The Chok Sarawut boat of Vietnam already fired on Thailand's boat on 16 October last year. Its 12 crew were seized then.

The Vietnamese charge d'affaires took note of the incident and said he would report it to his government in Hanoi. He will report to the Foreign Ministry once there is a response from Hanoi. Thailand stressed to Vietnam that the problem of overlapping boundaries between the two countries should be settled.

Tanker, Ferry Collide in Gulf; 87 Killed

*BK0803063792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0550 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] A collision between an oil tanker [name indistinct] and a passenger ferry boat Nawaprathip 111 carrying more than 100 passengers off the shore of Tambon Surasak, Si Racha District, in the Gulf of Thailand has caused massive death. A police official from the radio

center of the Si Racha District provincial police station has reported the incident to reporters as follows:

[Begin recording] Shortly after 0600 on 8 March 1992, a passenger ferry of a tour group travelling from Si Racha to Si Chang Island for a religious ceremony collided with an Thai-owned oil tanker named PCC 9. The ferry's name is Nawaprathip 111. From an early survey, about 87 dead bodies have been found. The investigation of the accident is being carried out. It has not yet been known if there are more dead bodies in the ferry. The incident occurred slightly more than 10 kilometers from the shore of Si Chang Island and slightly more than 3 kilometers off the Si Racha coast. The cause of the accident is still unknown. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Death Toll Rises to 114

*BK0803071292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0605 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] The latest death toll in the crash between an oil tanker and a passenger ferry in the waters off the shore of Si Racha District in the Gulf of Thailand this morning at the time of this report is 114.

Crown Prince Leaves on Official Visit to DPRK

*BK0903072592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0530 GMT 9 Mar 92*

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon has left Bangkok for an official visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] this morning. Public Relations Department correspondent Chatchai Ramphung reported:

[Begin recording] At 0840 this morning, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon left the Nonthaburi royal residence by a personal automobile to the Royal Thai Air Force [RTAF] Headquarters Airport, Don Muang, to board a specially arranged plane on an official visit to the DPRK. The Crown Prince is making a trip to the DPRK during 9-14 March at the invitation of the DPRK Government.

At the airport, the prince was seen off by a number of Privy Council members, members of the diplomatic corps, Cabinet members, senior officers from the Royal Thai Army, the Royal Thai Navy, the Royal Thai Air Force, the Police Department, and their wives. [passage omitted]

The Crown Prince boarded the special Air Force plane. The plane departed the RTAF Headquarters Airport for Pyongyang thus marking the start of the royal visit to the DPRK. [end recording]

SAP Rift May Prevent Three-Party Coalition

*BK0903013992 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Mar 92 p A6*

[Editorial: "Chat Thai-Samakki Tham alliance: Is SAP out?"]

[Text] The serious rift inside the Social Action Party [SAP] now threatens to cost the party a much coveted opportunity to join the new coalition government. It also further complicates political calculations with other parties trying to jockey for position to replace SAP.

SAP was, and possibly still is, part of an informal alliance with the Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham parties hoping to form the core of the new coalition government after the March 22 parliamentary election. But the ruling of the Assets Investigation Committee against SAP leader Montri Phongphanit changed the situation dramatically.

Montri obviously felt betrayed. He had co-opted Lt Gen Kasem Kraisan, a close friend of Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, into the party and given him the post of secretary-general. Kasem, who is believed to have close contacts with Gen Suchinda though he left the army late last year to enter national politics, came at first with the good news that Montri would be let off the hook. But it didn't turn out that way, and Montri openly charged that the ruling against him was dictated by some figures who wanted to undercut him and usurp party.

Montri's brief honeymoon with Kasem suddenly turned sour. He fired Dr Bun Wanasin from the post of chief adviser of the party on the grounds that Dr Bun was named to this ceremonial post by Kasem without seeking the approval of the party executive committee. Dr Bun happens to be a key financial supporter of Kasem and a good friend of Gen Suchinda.

Montri may feel he has nothing to lose now. He must do what he can to assert control of the party while he is appealing against the confiscation of Bt [baht] 336.5 million of his assets in the Supreme Court.

Kasem, on the other, is also proving himself in the eyes of the newcomers he recruited to join SAP as his power base and is wooing veteran SAPs to accept him. But first he must win his election in Ayuthaya's constituency No 2, where the two incumbents, SAP's Bunthan Khaewatana and Prachakon Thai's Col Narong Kittikachon, are also running for two seats. Kasem, in his first election, lacks local supporters; he chose the constituency because he thought Bunthan and Montri, a veteran MP [member of parliament] of Ayutthaya's constituency 1, would be able to help him win one of the two House seats.

If Kasem manages to win on his own then his power struggle with Montri will escalate. If he loses, then it is a foregone conclusion that he will have to step down and most probably leave the party.

With SAP in deep internal trouble, his two bigger alliance partners may be looking for a new partner. In the past week there were reports about them agreeing in principle to ally with the New Aspiration Party [NAP] of ex-army chief Gen Chawalit Yonchaiyut. Moreover, Chawalit began to talk about the possibility of his party "leading" a coalition, with him as the next prime minister. Previously he liked to stress that the goal of his

two-year-old party is to win up to 200 of the 360 House seats in order to form a one-party government and "revolutionize" Thai politics.

NAP, Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham remain the three largest parties with a good possibility of winning around 70 seats each. But none of them will 100 or more seats because of the tough competition. [sentence as published]

If these three major parties can stay together they may not need any minor partners. Their bargaining power with the other smaller parties will be high.

But without NAP, the Chat Thai-Samakkhi Tham alliance will need at least one medium-size party, like Democrat, SAP and Prachakon Thai, to form a majority in the House and a few minor partners (those winning less than 10 seats) to strengthen the coalition.

How the Phalang Tham Party of ex-Bangkok Governor Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang will fit into the picture is still unclear. Chamlong is leaving all options open. But it is unlikely that he will join a coalition that includes the Prachakon Thai Party as he and Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawet have long been at odds. Neither is it likely that he will be part of a coalition that excludes NAP.

Still, we must bear in mind that the picture may change drastically this week, just as it did last week with the explosion inside SAP.

Official on Military's Nominating Prime Minister

*BK0903012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Mar 92 p A4*

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] Chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong confirmed yesterday that the military would have a say in nominating the next prime minister if any one political party did not win a majority in the general election.

"If House seats are so split after the election, leaders of political parties and the NPKC will have to sit down and talk to find out whether the next prime minister should come from the election or be picked from among outsiders," Gen Sunthon said.

An apparent loophole in the new Constitution appears to give Sunthon interim constitutional power to select the prime minister after the March 22 poll.

The Constitution's provisional section states that the NPKC's power, given under the military-adopted interim Constitution, will remain intact until a Cabinet is sworn in after the next general election.

Articles 21 and 23 of the interim charter empower the NPKC chairman to nominate the prime minister and countersign His Majesty the King's endorsement of the nomination.

Yesterday's statement by Sunthon was his clearest yet response to speculation that the military would want to play a big role in the formation of the post-election government.

The retired ex-supreme commander had declined to publicly discuss his controversial constitutional power.

Sunthon said if any political party could win a comfortable House of Representatives majority, its leader could become the next prime minister.

"(But) if political parties can reach no agreement, an outsider can become the next prime minister," he said.

A party needs to win a minimum 181 House seats out of the total 360 to gain a majority.

But no party is likely to win more than 100 seats in the March 22 election, political analysts believe.

The student movement has launched a campaign to support the next prime minister being an MP [member of parliament], the same stand backed by an anti-military political alliance.

The Democrat, New Aspiration, Phalang Tham and Solidarity parties have vowed to back their own leaders as the new prime minister, depending on the number of seats each party wins in the poll.

The alliance's rival political bloc, comprising the Samak-khitham, Chat Thai, Social Action and probably Prachakon Thai parties, has adopted a compromise stand towards the military and indicated that it would not mind joining a government led by an outsider.

Other controversial points in the new Constitution could lead to an unstable government if the administration was not accepted by the military, critics say.

The charter empowers Sunthon to appoint the first post-election Senate, which will be able to oust the government in no-confidence sessions or by voting against a royal decree.

Sunthon said he had submitted letters to the leaders of the armed forces, asking them to nominate senior officials for the 270 Senate seats.

The NPKC chairman confirmed that the Senate would be dominated by military men.

Anan Increases Human Rights Pressure on Burma

BK0903010992 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Mar 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] The government of Anan Panyarachun, whose tenure expires later this month, has increased pressure on the Rangoon military junta in a last-ditch effort to bring about improvements in the Burmese government's widely-condemned human rights record.

The recent shift is the outcome of assessments by government decision makers dealing with policy on Burma.

While the advisors recommended the government's existing policy of constructive engagement should be sustained if there was progress in the overall situation in Burma they also expressed little hope the policy bear fruit.

Discussions with leading Foreign Ministry and National Security Council officials, all of whom asked not to be identified, revealed frustrations over the Burmese leaders' refusal to turn over power to the opposition that won general elections in May, 1990.

"Frankly speaking, we don't expect any concrete results from the constructive engagement policy in the near future," said one senior official.

The official, who leaves his job later this month when the government's tenure also expires, was disappointed the Anan government had been unable to persuade the Burmese leaders to loosen their political grip and democratize Burma, even though Thailand's other foreign policy objectives in the past year had been achieved.

"It is the only area that we cannot say we have accomplished anything," he said, referring to the Anan administration's policy on Burma.

Other senior officials shared this sentiment while others believed constructive engagement should be maintained, despite bleak views of Burma's future, "because Thailand has to keep its channel with Burma open" they said.

They argued Thailand could not afford to cut off its ties with Burma as it shared a border of more than 2,200 km, and many problems including refugees and exiled students, as well as issues concerning ethnic minorities required regular consultations.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, who has refused repeated invitations from the regime of Gen Saw Muang to visit Rangoon, has laid down several conditions to be fulfilled before he will go to Burma, informed sources said.

The sources said he has called for a timetable for a return to a constituency assembly, for political democratization, and for a reunion of the family of the Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The Thai position was delivered through the Burmese Embassy recently.

Burma, according to the sources, would announce its intention to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Friendship when Asa's made an official visit to Rangoon. In January, both Vietnam and Laos said they would accede to the treaty.

Since Saw Muang took power, several senior Thai officials, including top military officials, have visited Rangoon. The junta has sought a visit by the Thai foreign minister because it would boost Burma's image.

The sources said the Thai government would like to see some tangible improvement in political conditions there and some goodwill from the Burmese junta leaders toward dissident leader Suu Kyi.

Burma's willingness to sign the 1976 treaty was not related to overall improvement of human rights conditions there, they said.

After years of support and toleration, the Thai officials said it is about time that the Burmese government demonstrated some form of sincerity and goodwill toward its population and the international community.

"Thailand is going to need extra ammunition to fight the international community's growing criticism of its policy toward Burma," said the same official who expressed disappointment over Thailand's policy on Burma.

At the ASEAN annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur last year, member countries including Thailand defended Burma and disagreed with the West's call for sanctions to pressure Burma to respect the democratic will of its people.

After the military coup in 1988, most Western governments suspended economic aid and have refused to resume it until human rights are acknowledged and fair elections held. ASEAN has rebuffed the West's calls to apply pressure on Rangoon, saying it did not want to interfere in Burma's internal affairs.

ASEAN officials argued that isolation and sanctions would shut all doors to reform in Burma.

Since then, the policy of constructive engagement has distinguished the Asian and Western ways of handling the Burmese situation.

As well as applying pressure, the Thai government has also demonstrated a new attitude toward the estimated 2,000 Burmese students living in exile in Thailand.

After years of an ambiguous and mistrustful attitude toward the Burmese students, Thailand will allow those who have registered with a safe centre in Ratchaburi to get professional training and study abroad if they have scholarships and proper sponsorship, according to an official who helped shape the new policy approach.

"They can study and receive training to prepare for a better future, including going abroad for their education," said the official. "They are a very important human resource for future of Burma."

Further evidence of the policy shift has been Anan's increasing criticism of Burma and its handling of Suu Kyi. In the past, Anan has spoken in favour of constructive engagement with Burma.

During Anan's recent visit to Hong Kong, this shift was obvious when he said the Burmese government should release the dissident leader. Previously, Anan has been more circumspect in commenting on events in Burma.

Diplomats said another litmus test for Thailand's attitude toward Burma was the fighting between Burmese troops and Karen rebels.

In the past, Thailand has allowed Burmese troops to cross into Thailand to attack the Karen stronghold. But during the current fighting between Burmese troops and Karen rebels, Thailand has stood firm in not allowing any Burmese troops to cross into its territory.

Protection Measures for Burmese Students Unveiled

*BK0803034092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 8 Mar 92 p 8*

[Text] Thailand this week unveiled protection measures for Burmese refugee students which seem to have broken the back of international opposition to a controversial plan to set up a safe area to accommodate them.

The Interior Ministry will issue identification cards to students that will allow them temporary stay in Thailand until the situation in their homeland is "safe" for their return.

An initial white card, to be used pending the opening of the safe area, will require monthly reports to the Operations Centre for Displaced Persons for extensions.

A yellow card will be the identification document for inhabitants of the safe area, officially described as the Burmese Students' Centre.

Both cards formally identify the holder as a "Burmese student" and plainly state that he or she has been granted temporary stay in the country.

"This is a vast improvement in protection," one aid official said.

For the first time since their arrival more than three years ago, the students opposing the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) are being offered legal status to protect them from arbitrary arrest and detention.

Officials of the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), five Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) assisting the Burmese and Western embassies were told about the ID cards as part of briefings by Thai authorities on Thursday on matters of policy and procedure related to the safe area.

It was the first formal session since the idea was floated in November 1990. The safe area is located at ban Maniloy in Pak Tho District of Ratchaburi. Set 90 kilometres from the Burmese border, it occupies the site of a former Border Patrol Police (BPP) station.

Plans call for it to receive the first batch of students towards the end of May.

Thai authorities made clear that it is not a detention centre or a refugee camp but a practical means of dealing with students so they are not subjected to detention and deportation, sources at the briefing said.

"It is a positive development," one that is better than having students "detained and deported," a UNHCR official said.

Many other participants likewise see improvements in the presentation but as many reserve room for error at implementation level, arguing that policy has not always been correctly translated into practice in the past.

"Our general reaction is positive but we cannot guarantee what will happen in the future," one Western official noted.

The reservation of aid agencies and Western officials is matched by that of Burmese students who readily cite violent encounters with uniformed police as justification for their lack of trust in Thai officialdom.

This confidence gap is a major sticking point in the project and heaps pressure on Thai authorities to ensure that policy is properly implemented and authority wielded is not abused.

The other sticking point is Thailand's insistence on only limited access for the UNHCR.

Citing security grounds, Thailand is allowing the UNHCR to request visits to the safe area only on a case-by-case basis.

"We would be more comfortable with uninterrupted access," a UNHCR official said, suggesting the issuing of a permanent pass.

NGOs arguing that only the UNHCR can ensure international protection think it should go further and press for a permanent presence in the safe area.

Many say students will be more nervous without an on-site UNHCR presence even though they have been disappointed by its failure to protect them on some occasions over the years.

Thailand may yet be open to persuasion and the international relief community has time to lobby between now and the end of May.

But officials have made it clear in private that Thailand wants to run this show.

Financially, Thai authorities have the means to go it alone at least for the first year as the Interior Ministry has obtained a 16 million baht budget from the Cabinet.

Most of this budget—12 million baht—will go towards maintenance and administration as repairs to existing buildings are not expected to amount to more than three million baht. An estimated 300,000 baht is earmarked for registration expenses.

The ministry will provide three meals a day and some educational activities and health services.

The UNHCR's stipend per student of 2,500 baht a month will be terminated on the students' entry into the safe area, an official said.

The attempt to keep UNHCR participation to a minimum apparently stems from lessons Thailand has learned from the Indochinese experience.

UNHCR involvement would mean screening according to UNHCR rules and Thailand simply does not want to be left with those "screened-out" or to draw more asylum-seekers looking for resettlement in the West, an official affirmed in an interview.

While questions of trust and UNHCR access still hold down acceptance of the safe area, provisions for freedom of movement and education are duly commended.

Students are allowed to leave the safe area for periods of up to seven days on request, with approval to be granted by the provincial governor.

The provision does not stop them from contacting the UNHCR in case of need or enrolling for educational courses in Bangkok or other provinces, officials noted.

In an initial period of three to six months, the Interior Ministry will organise an assessment of the educational level of each student in order to arrange an appropriate programme.

According to international sources, this may lead to students being allowed to further their studies at a nearby university.

The safe area will provide language teaching in English, French and Thai.

Thai authorities expect about 500 students to be among the first arrivals at the safe area and for the total population to amount to no more than about 1,500.

But things may not turn out according to plan, as the past three weeks have already shown.

The Interior Ministry on February 12 called on students to register for the safe area from February 17 to May 16.

So far only 102 students in detention have responded to the call. Those outside captivity have resisted the move, denouncing the safe area as a detention camp.

Thai officials are hoping that the release of the 102, as well as Thursday's briefings, will help change the situation.

The 102 include 98 who have been held at the Bang Khen Police Academy for eight months, and of whom 38 participated in a demonstration last July calling for political refugee status. The rest were held on illegal entry charges.

All are being released on condition they do not engage in political activity and that they report to the Interior Ministry's Displaced Persons Centre at Sri Yan monthly.

Those who fail to report by May 16 will be subject to legal action. Those who do not qualify as students will be asked to leave the country or report to Immigration authorities within 15 days.

The decision to grant a temporary stay to Burmese students comes under the Cabinet decision of September 24, 1991, which authorizes the Interior Minister to exercise his power to do so under Article 17 of the 1979 Immigration Act.

The Cabinet decision annuls the December 1990 ban on the deportation of Burmese students, a Thai official said.

But aid officials said they were given "reasonable assurance" on Thursday that there would be no deportations across the border. Thai authorities said students may be deported to the border but no one would be delivered into the hands of SLORC, one said.

Thai officials said the screening process tries to establish whether the applicant has a well-founded fear of persecution and takes into account his or her age.

Those aged 19 to 30 will be eligible, in keeping with the normal age group of university students, but those over 60 will not, one pointed out.

An NGO official commended the fact that the Interior Ministry is considering ethnic minorities as well as Burmese and contemplating spouses and children.

The ministry has left open the possibility of NGOs providing some services at the safe area.

NGO sources said a meeting among concerned agencies will take place in the coming week to decide the issue.

A number of questions still surround the safe area issue among them why the deadline for registration should stop at May 16 when the future is uncertain and more could need asylum after that date.

But the goodwill of Thai policy makers in granting a temporary stay to Burmese students seems to have been recognized and it is now up to them to see it through.

Suchinda, Army Leaders Meet To Discuss Situation

*BK0703064792 Bangkok NAO NA in Thai
7 Mar 92 pp 1, 18*

[Text] More than 300 Army regiment and battalion commanders called on Supreme Commander and Army Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun at his residence on the morning of 6 March.

The unscheduled gathering was covered only by Army Television Channel 5 reporters and technicians, who were given instruction by the station to "cover the commander's activities."

The supreme commander and Army commander called a meeting of regiment and battalion commanders from units throughout the country to give them advice and listen to problems facing their operations.

On 6 March, over 300 regiment and battalion commanders gathered at the Army commander's residence in Suan Ruanrudi. The purpose of the gathering was for the

supreme commander to hear problems facing the personnel in their common mission of safeguarding the three institutions—nation, monarch, and religion—which the current Army commander regards as his main policy. The gathering also had the purpose of celebrating the New Year. The gathering was called: with love and affinity. The attending officers affirmed unanimously that there was no political motive for the gathering and that it was merely an annual meeting with the commander.

According to a well-known Army officer, Gen. Suchinda stressed to the attendants that there was no need to worry about the current situation. Gen. Suchinda also gave each officer a wristwatch as a souvenir.

An Army source told NAO NA that Gen. Suchinda asked the attending unit commanders to work together for the Army, to be united, and avoid making academy class distinctions.

In the past week Gen. Suchinda has refused to give interviews to reporters on criticism by politicians. Army Secretary Major General Chaturit Phromsakha said Army officers in the ranks of major general and above have been feeling uneasy about the current situation.

Prime Minister Lashes Back at Critics

*BK0703030592 Bangkok THE NATION
in English 7 Mar 92 p A1*

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday reacted defiantly to growing criticism of his administration, insisting that the government had accomplished what it set out to do—lay the groundwork for national development.

An annoyed Anan, responding to reporters' questions at Government House, also said he saw no need for a joint evaluation of the government's and National Peace-keeping Council's [NPKC] performance as their terms were drawing to a close this month.

"What is the use of an evaluation when both of us are going out of existence?" the prime minister asked.

"Political parties and the new government will decide whether or not they like what this government has done.

"This government does not make it a point to please people and win praise. Thailand has been in a state of confusion for so long it wouldn't hurt to stay that way. After all, being quick to judge is part of the Thai way."

Anan has become increasingly resentful of criticism of his interim government, particularly that from members of the military council and their associates in the National Assembly as well as certain quarters of the press.

The prime minister said he did not even know whether or when his Cabinet and NPKC members were scheduled to hold a consultative meeting again.

At a seminar in Phatthaya also yesterday, Anan said: "The notion that my government has neglected to improve the living condition of the poor and underprivileged is naive. I wouldn't be surprised if it came from the mouth of a five-year-old."

The prime minister was fielding questions from participants of the seminar "A New Era of Environmental Development and the Eastern Region" at the Ambassador City Hotel.

Senior members of the military council, including NPKC Chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong and NPKC Chief Adviser Bunchana Atthakon, have accused the government of being preoccupied with promoting Thailand's economic growth at the expense of the poor.

Anan explained that his government was promoting economic growth which would create more jobs and boost the incomes of the poor.

He said the approaches might be different from those implemented by his predecessors but the ultimate objective was to solve the problem of poverty, particularly among the rural population.

Army Chief of Staff Wirot Saengsanit, a member of the military council, said yesterday the NPKC and the Anan Administration, which it installed after the coup in February last year, should jointly evaluate their performance before their terms end on March 22.

"But whether there will be a joint evaluation is up to NPKC Chairman Sunthon Khongsomphong and NPKC Secretary Itsaraphong Nunphakdi to decide," said Gen Wirot, who is also deputy communications minister.

The military council had earlier set Feb 23, the first anniversary of the overthrow of Chatchai Administration, to publicize its "achievements list" but postponed it indefinitely without providing reasons.

Political observers believe the postponement was made because the military council wanted to avoid a potentially embarrassing spectacle as it had virtually nothing tangible to claim as its own accomplishment.

The Anan Administration, on the other hand, has been credited with its bold decision on long-overdue major infrastructure projects and far-sighted liberalization of the country's economy.

On the complaint made by some members of the National Assembly that the government was trying to rush through the interim legislature a large number of proposed laws it initiated, Anan said he was unperturbed by the criticism.

"We are not pushing anybody. The assembly is supposed to consider the government-proposed bills. We are not forcing the assembly to convene its meetings seven days a week," the prime minister said.

The National Assembly, which convenes its three-hour meetings on Fridays, will be dissolved on March 22.

Assemblyman, Lt Gen Pricha Rotchanasen, suggested yesterday that the Anan Administration review its performance and publicize the findings. Pricha, one of the staunchest critics of the government, is a close associate of the NPKC chairman.

"Let's make it known to the public what are the government's achievements and what are its failures. We can always draw valuable lessons from failures. There is nothing to be embarrassed about," the assemblyman said.

Cross-Border Trade With Laos To Be Regulated

*BK0703052492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 7 Mar 92*

[Text] The Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, will undertake the regulating of the trading from the Thai side into the Lao People's Democratic Republic through registration of business concerns wishing to do business across the border. To conduct cross-border trade one has to obtain licenses from the Department of Foreign Trade and has to be of a legal status and juristic entity or a trading cooperative. The licenses will last indefinitely. Those conducting cross-border trade before 2 March will be automatically entitled to carry on the businesses.

Cross-border trade governed by the regulation does not include goods exchanging at local level, importing, and exporting of goods by government agencies or state enterprises of both countries and by international organizations or charitable organizations and agencies.

Thai-Indonesian Commission AFTA Role Viewed

*BK0603074892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in English 0000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said the Thai-Indonesian Joint Commission has an important task to prepare the groundwork for the establishment of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

The statement was part of the minister's speech delivered on Wednesday [4 March] at the first meeting of the Thai-Indonesian Joint Commission in Jakarta.

Mr Asa said AFTA, to be realized within 15 years, should serve as the commission's main objective. On investment, he foresees good prospects for cooperation in terms of joint ventures since Thailand and Indonesia have abundant natural resources and expertises, which are complementary.

Thailand, being the gateway to Indochina and Myanmar, is in a unique position to work closely with Indonesia to enable these countries to join the main stream of the regional economy.

Mr Asa said Thailand and Indonesia should also help each other upgrade their technology and human resources, and benefit from each other's experiences. People-to-people understanding could also be increased through exchanges of visits and through tourism.

Vietnam

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Solomon Visit

*BK0603120092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States Government has decided to extend its humanitarian aid to Vietnam, not only in prosthetics projects but in the areas of homeless children, medical services, and natural disaster relief. In this connection, here is our radio commentary:

The U.S. Government's decision was announced by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon. At a press conference in Hanoi on Thursday, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Mai said that during the trip to Vietnam starting Wednesday by a U.S. Government delegation led by Mr. Solomon, the U.S. officials heard reports from officials of the Health and Labor Ministry on Vietnam's humanitarian needs.

On U.S. humanitarian support to Vietnam, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said:

[Begin Le Mai recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] My brief assessment is as follows: The total sum for several humanitarian aid programs is about 3 million U.S. dollars. The U.S. side also will contribute 3 million U.S. dollars through nongovernment organizations and U.S. aid programs for Vietnam.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said: Vietnam is grateful for this assistance. However, he pointed out that the U.S. response remained too modest in light of Vietnam's great humanitarian needs. He further remarked that this response is not commensurate with the capacity of the United States. He said that this move would only be meaningful if it meant the start of further action. He said it would be meaningless if no more actions follow. It is what happens next that will decide the true meaning of American aid. [end recording]

On the question of MIAs and POWs, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai said:

[Begin Le Mai recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] This time, the U.S. made five proposals. They summed up all the proposals made previously by the United States that Vietnam had responded to positively. The Vietnamese side agreed to give the U.S. greater access to military archives with information that would resolve outstanding prisoners of war-MIA cases.

On the question of immediate investigation into reports that some Americans are still living somewhere here, the Vietnamese side noted that this question concerns Vietnam security and sovereignty. Although Vietnam was positive that no live Americans were being held, it agreed to short-notice field investigations. [end recording]

Mr. Le Mai said: During talks, the U.S. side expressed satisfaction with Vietnam's response and the two sides will meet again soon to map out a specific program.

He said that the best, most constructive way for the U.S. to accelerate humanitarian cooperation would be to lift the trade embargo. As long as the embargo is there, he said, an atmosphere of hostility remains.

He criticized the U.S. for preventing the ASEAN Support Group from helping Vietnam pay its debts to the IMF and World Bank. This action, he stressed, runs against conscience and is unacceptable.

However, Mr. Le Mai also described what had been achieved during Solomon's visit as an important step forward.

Vietnam and the U.S. have accelerated the process of establishing bilateral ties.

Le Mai said Vietnam believes that the process of normalizing relations at an accelerated pace will be beneficial to both countries.

MIA Meeting Yields 'Useful' Results

*BK0703143192 Hanoi VNA in English 1411 GMT
7 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mar. 7—Cambodian, American and Vietnamese experts met in Phnom Penh on Mar. 6 to discuss the cooperation in the settlement of M.I.A. cases possibly relating to two or three countries.

The Cambodian group was headed by Deputy Minister of Interior Muon Saret, chairman of the Cambodian Committee for the Search of U.S. servicemen Missing In Action, the American Group by Ambassador Charles Twining and the Vietnamese group by Nguyen Xuan Phong, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's Department For America.

The meeting issued a communique saying that the discussions took place in the spirit of humanity, cooperation and constructiveness with useful results.

Army Paper on U.S. Primary Election in Georgia

*BK0603100492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[From the press review]

[Text] Concerning the current international situation, besides news, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carries on page

4 an article under the rubric "Another Stunning Blow at Bush," in which author Nguyen Tri Kha wrote the following:

In the 3 March primary election in Georgia—the most important fight thus far in the race for the nomination of the presidential candidacy of his party—Mr. Bush was dealt another severe and cruel blow with 37 percent of Republican voters choosing Buchanan, his opponent, to express their discontent over the current state of the country in general and at the current president in particular.

For the Republican party, the primary elections in Georgia are of paramount importance. Buchanan has concentrated all his firepower on this fight with a determination to deal the same stunning blow that he had dealt Bush in New Hampshire on 18 February, using the same strategy of capitalizing on the weaknesses of the White House executive in the economic field, as well as contributing to [words indistinct] of his opponent.

The White House spokesman admitted that the administration was obviously concerned about Buchanan and felt very uneasy due to his divisive tune.

South Carolina Primary

*BK0903135692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] On the evening of 7 March, U.S. President Bush scored an important victory in the Republican primary elections in South Carolina. However, his chief opponent, Patrick J. Buchanan of the rightist wing, also won a considerably high percentage of votes. Meanwhile, Bill Clinton also easily defeated three Democratic opponents.

Based on 72 percent of the vote already counted, Bush led with 67 percent. Next came Buchanan with 26 percent and a former Ku Klux Klan leader, David Duke, won 7 percent of the votes.

On the Democratic side, Clinton got 69 percent of the votes while Paul Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator, got 15 percent. Senator Tom Harkin and former Carolina Governor Edmund Brown got 6 percent each.

Analysts had earlier predicted that Bush and Clinton would win in South Carolina. The two candidates had also looked forward to scoring a great victory there so that they could carry that momentum to the primary elections of 10 March, which has remained the most important date in the 1992 election campaign. Eleven more states will cast their ballots on that date.

Envoy to UN Visits Washington

*BK0903080392 Hanoi VNA in English 0642 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnamese permanent mission to the

United Nations, visited Washington, the capital of the United States, in early March 1992.

During his visit, Ambassador Lang talked with more than 50 representatives of American businessmen and intellectuals in a meeting held by the US-Vietnam Trade Council on March 4. The participants expressed their wish for an early improvement of US-Vietnamese relations so that US businessmen would not miss available opportunities in Vietnam. They also appealed to the Bush government to lift its embargo against Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples.

On March 5, Ambassador Lang spoke about the Vietnamese Government's foreign and economic policies and its point of view on the normalisation of relations with the United States at two meetings held by the US centre for strategic and international studies and the Asia Society.

Also on March 5, the Vietnamese ambassador conferred with Senators John Kerry and Bob Smith, chairman and vice chairman of the US Senate Select Committee, on the MIA/POW issue.

While in Washington, Ambassador Lang had working sessions with the leading board of the "Indochina Project", an organisation working actively for the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

People Leave Under Orderly Departure Program

*BK0803130492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] About 18,000 people have left Ho Chi Minh City so far this year for the United States, Australia, Canada, and France under the Orderly Departure Program, ODP. The External Affairs Bureau in the city said over 60 percent of the departures were for family reunion.

To better transport the immigrants, six chartered flights were arranged by the International Organization for Migration [IOM] to fly more than 2,000 persons directly to the United States last month. Five more such flights will be arranged in March. This year, more than 100,000 persons are expected to leave under ODP.

Party Delegation Leaves 6 Mar for PRC Visit

*BK0603150392 Hanoi VNA in English 1345 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) led by Le Phuoc Tho, politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee [CC], left here today for an official visit to China at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

It was seen off by Nguyen Duc Binh, politburo member Hong Ha, Secretary of the Party CC Le Huy Nho,

member of the Party CC and deputy head of its Commission for Organization Trinh Ngoc Thai, the deputy head of the party CC's External Relations Commission, and other senior officials.

Chinese ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei was also present on the occasion.

Further on Activities

BK0803091392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 7 March, Comrade Song Ping, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, received a Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] delegation led by Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, now visiting China.

Extending a warm welcome to the Vietnamese guests, Comrade Song Ping noted that the group's visit is the first from the CPV since they normalized relations. He said: As close neighbors, China and Vietnam need to share experiences as well as information.

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, chairman of the CPV Central Committee Organization Department, briefed Comrade Song Ping on Vietnam's progress in economic reform, particularly in agriculture. The CPV attaches great importance to party building as well as its leading role in economic reform, he said.

Defense Delegation Pays Visit

BK0803084992 Hanoi VNA in English 0618 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Mar. 8—A delegation of the External Relations Department of the Ministry of National Defence led by its Major General Vu Xuan Vinh, head of the department, recently paid a week-long working visit to China.

While there, it was cordially received by Senior Lieutenant-General Chi Haotian, chief of the general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (CPLA).

The Vietnamese delegation also had working session with its host—the CPLA's External Affairs Department. The two sides expressed their wish for the restoration and development of friendship between the armed forces of the two countries.

The delegation visited Beijing, Shanghai, Kwangzhou, Chenchua and other localities.

Agreements Signed in Beijing

BK0803151492 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—Vietnam and China signed in Beijing this afternoon four agreements on cooperation

in communications, transport, and posts and telecommunications during a visit to China from March 7-9 by a delegation and the Vietnam Ministry of Communications, Transport and Posts led by Minister Bui Hanh Luu.

Earlier this morning, Minister Bui Hanh Luu and his party were cordially received in Beijing by Chinese Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji.

The Chinese vice premier welcomed the signing of the four cooperation agreements and expressed his wish for the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

For his part, Minister Bui Hanh Luu thanked Vice Premier Zhu Rongji and other Chinese Leaders for their hospitality.

Further on Agreements

BK0903050392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] At the invitation of the PRC Government, a delegation of the SRV Ministry of Communications, Transportation and Post led by its minister Bui Hanh Luu, paid an official visit to China on 7-9 March. On 8 March, Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji cordially received Minister Bui Hanh Luu and his entourage.

Attending the function were Li Senmao, minister of railways; Yang Taifang, minister of posts and telecommunications; Huang Zhendong, minister of communications; and (Tuong Zubing), director general of the civil aviation department. Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji, on behalf of the Chinese Government, warmly welcomed Minister Bui Hanh Luu and hailed the signing of four bilateral agreements on cooperation in communications, transport, posts, and telecommunications. These agreements will be implemented very soon. He also expressed the hope to see more concrete activities aimed at enhancing relations between the two countries.

Minister Bui Hanh Luu expressed his sincere thanks to Vice Premier Zhu Rongji and other Chinese leaders and officials concerned for their warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Vietnamese delegation.

Earlier in the afternoon, at the People's Great Hall in Beijing, Vietnamese Minister Bui Hanh Luu, and Chinese ministers Li Senmao, Yang Taifang, Hoang Zhendong, and director general (Tuong Zubing), on behalf of their respective governments, signed agreements on trans-border railways, on posts and telecommunications cooperation, on maritime shipping, and on civil aviation between the two countries.

After the signing ceremony, both sides expressed delight at the concluded agreements and unanimously contended that agencies concerned in both countries will take appropriate measures to effectively implement these agreements, thereby positively contributing to carrying out the spirit of the recent Sino-Vietnamese

summit meeting and speeding up the full normalization of relations between the two nations.

Music, Art Troupes Leave for China

Music Troupe Departs

*BK0703073592 Hanoi VNA in English 0546 GMT
7 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 7—The Saigon Light Music Troupe left here yesterday for China on a performance tour at the invitation of the Chinese Association for Cultural Exchanges with Foreign Countries.

The 37-member troupe is led by musician Chanh Truc.

Art Troupe Gives Premier

*BK0903072792 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—The Saigon art troupe gave its premier on March 7 at the municipal theatre of Nanning in Guangxi province (China).

The troupe is invited by the Guangxi Association for Cultural Exchanges with Foreign Countries.

The troupe whose repertoire includes Chinese songs and dances will also tour other places in China.

Japanese Official Predicts Resumption of Aid

*BK0903074192 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—The time has come for Japan to resume full economic assistance to Vietnam, parliamentary vice foreign minister Koji Kakizawa, a House of Representatives (LDP) member, was quoted by KYODO as telling reporters at the Foreign Correspondents club of Japan that he wanted Japan to resume full assistance to Vietnam for reconstruction of the country's infrastructure at least by the end of this year.

Kakitawa said Vietnam should no longer be kept isolated, considering the fact that its people are in straits, its economy is becoming market-oriented, a Cambodian peace settlement has been reached, and the six-member association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has accepted it as an economic partner.

"Therefore, we believe that for Japan the time has come to cooperate with them," he said.

Kakizawa will come to Hanoi on March 24 at the invitation of the Japanese Embassy here, said a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman last Thursday. The main purpose is to attend the inauguration of a Japan-Vietnam Friendship Club, she added.

PRAVDA Interviews Nguyen Dy Nien on Visit

*BK0603141992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 5 Feb 92*

[Report on interview by unidentified PRAVDA correspondent with Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien on "the outcome of his recent visit to the Commonwealth of Independent States"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Correspondent] How do you assess the outcome of your visit to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)?

[Nien] I think that the outcome of my recent visit was positive. This is due chiefly to the fact that despite the current political situation, both the leaders and the public opinion of the four countries to which our delegation visited expressed their desire to maintain their relations of cooperation and friendship with Vietnam. These relations have a profound historical origin.

Under new conditions, various nations in the CIS wished to develop these traditions. This was an essential political success. Another success was that both sides unanimously believed that it is necessary to continue their bilateral economic cooperation. All the representatives of Ukraine, Belarus, and Uzbekistan—which are sovereign states—expressed their desire to establish direct contact with Vietnam through economic and trade cooperation.

It was agreed that Uzbekistan would provide Vietnam with cotton in exchange for rice, meat, and certain kinds of commodities.

With Ukraine, we have already agreed to supply Ukraine with pure rubber in exchange for mineral fertilizer.

We are planning to provide Belarus with various kinds of food and pure rubber in exchange for technological means of production such as tractors. At present, over 12,000 agricultural machines built in Minsk are being used in Vietnamese ricefields. This cooperation will be kept going.

[Correspondent] In which particular CIS countries does the Vietnamese Government wish to set up diplomatic offices?

[Nien] We wish to set up diplomatic offices in all of the sovereign states. But this is rather complicated. This is mainly due to financial reasons. We have decided to open two additional embassies. In addition to our existing embassy in Moscow, we will have two more embassies in Kiev and Tashkent.

[Correspondent] While in Moscow, you already discussed the issue of Vietnamese citizens now working at various Russian enterprises. Does the Vietnamese side plan to continue its cooperation in this domain?

[Nien] In the Russian Federation, there are 40,000 Vietnamese workers now working at over 200 enterprises belonging to 50 provinces under various agreements previously signed. Due to complex circumstances at present, enterprises in Russia are having difficulty ensuring the living conditions of Vietnamese workers and purchasing air tickets for these workers to go home when their contracts expire. However, many sectors still want to cooperate with Vietnam.

[Correspondent] What are your thoughts about the founding of the CIS and the extinction of the Soviet Union?

[Nien] Our Vietnamese people were very sad on learning this news. Previously, in our mind, the Soviet Union was a wonderful model. The words wonderful model here implied the positive potential of socialism and reflected Vietnam's solidarity with peace-loving forces in the world. We regard the birth of the CIS and the Soviet Union's departure from the world arena as being completely an internal affair of various nations in the former Soviet Union. These nations are the ones which have made such a decision, and we respect their choice.

Minister on Vo Van Kiet's Philippine Visit

*BK0603074492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 5 Mar 92*

[Text] Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vo Hoan says that the recent visit to the Philippines and Brunei of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet was successful. In an interview with our radio correspondent on the result of Mr Vo Van Kiet's visit, Mr Vo Hoan said:

[Begin recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] First of all, Vietnam and the Philippines and Vietnam and Brunei agreed to open a new era in their friendship and cooperation in the interests of each country. The Philippines affirmed to [words indistinct] and discuss with Vietnam measures to promote cooperation in the new stage, and Brunei officially established diplomatic relations with Vietnam as from 29 February. That means that Vietnam has set up diplomatic relations with all countries in Southeast Asia.

The second success of the visit is in the fields of economy and trade. Vietnam and the Philippines signed three agreements including an agreement on investment guarantees, an agreement on navigation, and an agreement on the establishment of economic and trade cooperation committee.

Vietnam and Brunei agreed to hold talks on the signing of a framework document on economic and trade cooperation and will conclude an agreement on navigation. The two sides also reached agreement on measures for trade exchanges between the two countries.

The first result is that Chairman Vo Van Kiet and President Aquino as well as the Sultan of Brunei compared notes on regional issues and reached a high level of unanimity on the need to promote regional cooperation for peace, stability and development of all countries.

On the process of relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries, Mr Vu Hoan said: This visit, as well as the previous visits to other ASEAN countries of Mr Vo Van Kiet created a favorable international environment for Vietnam to develop its economy. It has made important contributions to the trend of peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia and Asia and the Pacific and the world. It opened bright prospects for cooperation between Vietnam and all regional countries in the fields of politics, economy, trade, science and technology, culture, tourism and sport in the interest of all countries in the region.

Mr Vo Hoan also dealt with Vietnam's accession to the Bali Treaty. Vietnam's cooperation with regional countries will contribute to the trend of peace and stability in the region. Prompted by these interests, Vietnam has applied for accession to the Bali Treaty on amity and cooperation. This desire has been positively supported by countries in the region and was affirmed by ASEAN countries at their summit recently held in Singapore.

In this visit the Philippine leaders reiterated this stance. This is of important significance as the Philippines is now chairman of the ASEAN. The Philippines will raise this issue at the ASEAN foreign ministerial conference held in the summer in Manila to prepare necessary procedures for Vietnam to sign the treaty. This is also the main external activity of Vietnam over the past period. [end recording]

Diplomatic Relations With Israel Said Possible

*BK0603125492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] Hanoi, March 6 (AFP)—Vietnam and Israel will "most probably" establish diplomatic relations soon, the director of the Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce said here Friday.

Abraham Blass, who is leading the first official Israeli delegation to Vietnam, said the two countries would develop cooperative relations which would "most probably lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations."

Blass told AFP that he would sign Saturday an outline agreement with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce which "would serve to develop cooperation in the future."

He did not say when diplomatic relations would be established but he remarked that an Israeli commercial delegation visited China in December 1990 and Beijing and Tel Aviv established formal ties in February 1991.

Ties With ASEAN Shift 'to Cooperation'

*BK0803153592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam says the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and ASEAN are beneficial to both sides and constitute factors for ensuring peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

In an interview with the army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on Sunday [8 March], Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam pointed out that the biggest success of a recent visit to Southeast Asian countries by Premier Vo Van Kiet is the change of the relations between Vietnam and regional countries from confrontation to cooperation and friendship.

Deputies To Ask Government for Budget Explanation

*BK0303080592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Mar 92*

[Text] On 29 February, the Hanoi deputies to the eighth National Assembly met to prepare various topics for its 11th session which is scheduled for late March.

The Hanoi deputies unanimously agreed that the National Assembly should concentrate on discussing the

topics of the session in order to pass the revised constitution. This is because the constitution itself is a state law governing all other laws. Together with the constitution, the revised National Assembly election law must also be passed at this session so that the election of the ninth National Assembly can be held on schedule.

Some deputies suggested that the National Assembly pass the laws on the organization of the National Assembly and Council of State, as well as the organization of the government so that these organs can operate immediately after the new National Assembly is elected.

Regarding the readjustment of the state budget estimates for 1992, which will be discussed and decided at this session, the deputies requested that the government point out clearly the adjustment of various targets in accordance with the briefing at the 10th session, and the reasons for such adjustment. They said:

After discussing measures to increase investment and redetermining the structure for budget spending, the deputies agreed that the government must elaborate on the issue of wages for workers, civil servants, members of the Armed Forces, and retirees.

At a group meeting, the deputies unanimously agreed to a plan to get in touch with large numbers of voters so as to hear their suggestions to the revised constitution.

Australia**UN Timor Statement 'Constructive Compromise'***BK0603095392 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 6 Mar 92*

[Text] The Australian Government says a statement on East Timor by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is a constructive compromise. The Geneva meeting (sides with) the European Community resolution which was seen as using tougher language in its condemnation of Indonesia. From Canberra, Grame Dobell reports on the way in which Australia worked with Indonesia to achieve the compromised statement.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] The meeting chairman in Geneva issued a consensus statement expressing its serious concern at the human rights situation in East Timor. It deplored the loss of lives and the injuries of a large number of civilians with many unaccounted for. The statement also said the UN Human Rights Commission was encouraged by Indonesia's announcement of disciplinary measures against some members of its Armed Forces.

The Australian Government says it worked to alter the original European resolution put up by Portugal because it was too strident. Australian officials say it was more constructive to have Indonesia agree to the UN consensus statement which urged for trial of detainees and access to East Timor for humanitarian organizations.

Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, says Australia's reservations about the European resolution was shared by the United States, Japan, and Canada—quite apart from Indonesia and the other Asian delegations.
[end recording]

Portuguese 'Peace Boat' Arrives in Darwin 8 Mar*BK0803094892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT
8 Mar 92*

[Text] Darwin, Australia, March 8 (AFP)—The Portuguese "peace boat" Lusitania Expresso arrived here Sunday and began final preparations for a planned mission to East Timor to highlight Indonesia's alleged human rights abuses there.

The vessel left Lisbon January 23 and is due to leave for the East Timorese capital of Dili on Monday with some 150 students, peace activists and journalists aboard.

Among those on board the chartered passenger car ferry are former Portuguese President and General Antonio Ramalho Eanes.

Two Indonesian students have been barred from boarding the boat out of fears of possible reprisals against them by Jakarta.

Indonesia has banned the ship access to its territorial waters and has positioned nine frigates in the Timor Sea to head off any attempt to reach Dili.

The students want to lay wreaths at Santa Cruz cemetery in the capital to commemorate the November 12 massacre of demonstrators by Indonesian soldiers.

An official Indonesian inquiry said 50 people had been killed in the incident, claiming soldiers were provoked, but independent witnesses put the number of dead at more than 100 and deny any provocation.

Lusitania Expresso Captain Luys Dos Santos told organisers in Darwin that the ship was repeatedly "buzzed" by a light aircraft bearing Indonesian markings on Friday and Saturday.

"It was damned low, the plane almost struck the mast of the ship," he told reporters by radio early Sunday, claiming the aircraft flew as low as 30 metres (100 feet) on one occasion.

"I do not doubt it was intimidation," mission spokesman David Stewart said. "They have been trying to intimidate us from the very beginning.

"I would say they were carrying out surveillance, trying to see where it (the boat) was and how fast it was going," he said.

The ship is due to collect more than 120 students, journalists and dignitaries in Darwin, along with supplies for the crossing of the Timor Sea.

Despite Indonesia's declaration that its territorial waters are closed, organisers claim the ship has the right to sail to Dili as the United Nations does not recognise Jakarta's 1976 annexation of the former Portuguese colony.

Dos Santos told reporters he could not believe Indonesia would use force against the mission. "This is a peaceful mission and to send warships against us is quite a remarkable thing," he said.

But Stewart said the Indonesians are uncertain how to deal with the ship.

"I firmly believe the Indonesians are scared stiff," he said. "They are more scared of us than we are of them."

He said the mission had focused attention on Indonesian actions in East Timor, particularly the allegation that 200,000 people have died there since Indonesia's 1975 invasion.

Organisers released a copy of a letter of support from U.S. Senator Alan Cranston written to Indonesian President Suharto, asking him to permit the mission to proceed.

"I hope the Indonesian authorities in East Timor will accommodate the delegation's wish to visit the Santa Cruz cemetery," the Democratic senator wrote.

"Knowing of your own concern about the tragedy, I hope that you will be understanding of this group's desire to offer their heartfelt sympathies," Cranston said.

